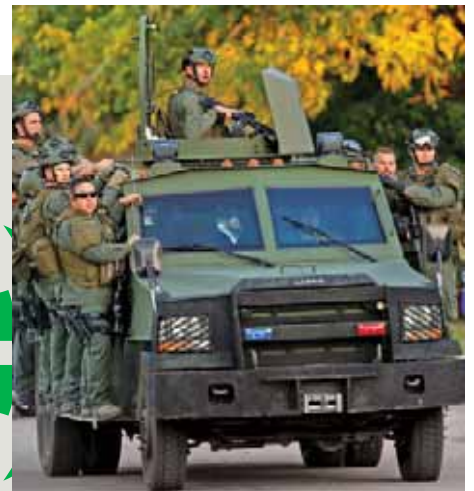


Is this the new normal?

California horror marks the 355th mass shooting in the U.S. this year. Coverage, metroNEWS

Toronto metro



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**John Tory's
new vision may
be just what
Toronto needs.**

Metro's **Luke Simcoe** and columnist **Matt Elliott** on the state of the city address **metroNEWS**



Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

John Tory has a message for Torontonians: "We need to get serious about building a city of the future."

The mayor outlined his vision for the city on Wednesday in a speech that marked his one-year anniversary in office. And, very much like the Tory Toronto has come to expect, it didn't come with flash and grandeur. Instead, he talked about sensible, workable solutions to problems ranging from pedestrian deaths to child poverty.

The centrepiece of his speech was a pledge to implement a "modest" new tax to help pay for much-needed transit and housing projects.

The 0.5 per cent tax will start in 2017 and increase annually until reaching 2.5 per cent in 2022. The mayor's office said the average household can expect to pay \$13 more per year.

The announcement came a day after city manager Peter Wallace sounded the alarm over the city's revenue shortage. Wallace was adamant that without new revenue tools, the city will be unable to fund \$23 billion in promised capital spending — and create the Toronto many want.

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Grade 4 students Meline Maldonado, Chloe Pineault, Sam O'Reilly, Riley Flood, Chiara Maguire and Layla Khalidi stand with their **welcome cards for Syrian refugees** at Regal Road Public School in Toronto. PHOTOS BY TODD KOROL FOR TORONTO STAR

We're so pleased to meet you

NEWCOMERS

Syrian refugees welcomed in quintessentially Canadian way

Amid the flurry of paperwork facing Syrian refugees when they land in Canada, it will be the handmade cards with cotton-ball snowmen that are bound to lift their weary souls.

"Welcome to Canada, I really hope you have a nice time," says one of the folded construction-paper greetings bearing a sketch of a heart with two flags — Syria's and Canada's.

"I'm glad you came — Math is fun! Soccer is fun! And tobogganing is fun!" says another of the simple messages being drawn by school children for Canada's most celebrated newcomers.

Students will deliver the wel-

come cards to Parliament Hill next week. Some of them even carry greetings in beginner's Arabic, like those crafted by earnest Grade 4 artists at Toronto's Regal Road Public School.

"Actually, their language goes from right to left," nine-year-old Layla Khalidi tells classmate Riley Flood, who had carefully copied the Arabic script for "Hello, welcome to Canada" from the teacher's laptop — but written it, as usual, from left to right.

This was one of five classes at Regal Road school to make refugee welcome cards Wednesday in workshops led by Toronto lawyer and mother of four Sara Hildebrand.

More than 20 Toronto schools have asked Hildebrand to lead card-making workshops, which she starts by talking about refu-

gees and noting that of the world's 20 million refugees, half are kids.

As the children glue on cotton-ball snowmen and draw peace signs and dig out the red and green pencils they need for the Syrian flag, "they're developing the seed of compassion when they're young that can shine throughout their lives," said teacher Jamie Roos.



This idea comes from the heart.
Jamie Roos, teacher

like — How will they get here? Where will they be housed? So much of that comes from the heart," said Roos.

"But this idea," she said of the clusters of kids poring over their welcome cards, "comes from the heart." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

+ SPONSORSHIP COLD HANDS, WARM HEARTS



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Danforth residents are about to prove they'll do anything to help support soon-to-arrive Syrian refugees. Including sleeping out in the cold.

In a community event dubbed Sleep Out for Syrians, nearly 100 people have signed up to camp outside the Church of Resurrection near Danforth and Woodbine on Saturday night. The effort is expected to raise \$10,000, money that will go to help three Syrian families.

The Neighbourhood Group, a nonprofit agency in Toronto's east end, has already raised more than \$90,000, enough to cover

the \$25,000-per-family sponsorship fee.

But, Elizabeth Dove, who's organizing the weekend event, said people were looking for a way to help even if they couldn't afford to sponsor a family on their own.

"We thought we could show our solidarity by being welcoming," she said. Sleeping in near — or below — freezing temperatures can't compare to the hardship refugees living in camps face, Dove said.

"We really hope this raises interest from the community about the problem of refugees," she said. "My eight-year old will be camping out with me, as is the case with many other parents."



Elizabeth Dove and her daughter, Leila, 8, will be participating in the fundraiser. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Since the idea was raised three weeks ago, the community has really chipped in, Dove said. "It is really indicative of how Torontonians are willing to open their doors and help welcome refugees."

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Yatim was 'going to get himself shot,' jury hears

TRIAL

Partner of accused officer recounts night teenager killed

Based on the way he was behaving and his actions, Sammy Yatim "was going to get himself shot," a Toronto police officer told the jury Wednesday at her partner's murder trial.

Const. Iris Fleckeisen, a 24-year veteran of the force, was testifying at the trial of Const. James Forcillo.

Forcillo has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and attempted murder in Yatim's shooting death.

Yatim, 18, was on an empty Dundas streetcar stopped at Bellwoods Avenue just after midnight on July 27, 2013, when Forcillo fired nine bullets at him, striking him eight times. Yatim had been holding a knife.

Fleckeisen and Forcillo were the first officers to arrive at the scene. When they parked their vehicle, Fleckeisen said, Forcillo had a direct route to the streetcar doors. This meant he had the first interaction with Yatim, making it logical that he took the lead, Fleckeisen said.

Before the first shots were fired, Fleckeisen said she saw



Const. James Forcillo
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yatim "make a very deliberate, intentional motion forward, and I interpreted that as he was going to be coming off the streetcar."

She said, as seen on a video

of the confrontation, that she had a "natural jerk reaction" when the first shot was fired, but it was something she was expecting given Yatim's move to get off the streetcar.

The Crown's position is that Yatim was not intending to get off the streetcar when he took a step, after Forcillo told him that if he took a step forward he'd be shot. The Crown has suggested Yatim was moving back to an area where he'd been standing moments before and may even have been trying to surrender his knife just before he was shot the first three times.

Fleckeisen said she holstered her gun before Forcillo fired in

order to radio for a sergeant with a Taser. However, the airwaves were too chaotic and she was unable to make the request, she said.

In response to a question from Forcillo's lawyer, Peter Brauti, about the Crown's suggestion she holstered her gun because she did not consider Yatim a threat, Fleckeisen said: "I think it is very easy to misinterpret and oversimplify my actions that night, especially if you don't have the context of policing, our practices and procedures. That night ... was, is, and remains one of the most terrifying moments of my life."

The trial continues.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Woman critical after vehicle hits debris

Police say a two-metre long piece of debris from a tow truck led to the crash on Highway 401 Tuesday that left a woman in critical condition.

According to the OPP, the debris was seen in the eastbound collector lanes just west of Rougemount Drive in Pickering around 8:30 p.m.

The 24-year-old Markham woman suffered life-threatening injuries after the debris went through her vehicle's windshield.

OPP are still investigating. Anyone with any information is asked to call the Whitby OPP Detachment at (905) 668-3388.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fest to help women's shelter and businesses

Toronto's West Queen West district is running a holiday drive, asking people to bring in food or clothing to support the local Salvation Army Florence Booth House women's shelter and local businesses.

More than 20 stores in the area are participating in Holiday Fest in West Queen West until Dec. 24, offering individual discounts and promotions on purchases for customers who bring in a non-perishable food item or a piece of clothing.

Participating stores will place a red Salvation Army balloon on their storefront to show their involvement.

MALLORY CHATE/ FOR METRO

TRIPLE TRANSPLANT

Teen receives new chance at life

A Toronto teen with cystic fibrosis has been given a second chance at life with a first-of-its-kind triple-organ transplant.

In August, Reid Wylie underwent a 17-hour operation to replace his failing lungs, liver and pancreas at Toronto General Hospital, freeing him from using an oxygen tank and allowing him to eat meals without taking daily handfuls of pills to digest his food and insulin shots to control his diabetes.

A number of triple transplants have been performed

using various organs, but this is believed to be the first in the world to replace the lungs, liver and pancreas in a single operation, the hospital says.

Cystic fibrosis, or CF, is a genetic disease that causes the lungs to fill with thick, sticky mucus, making them prone to repeated infections that eventually destroy the respiratory organs. This mucus also blocks tubes that carry digestive enzymes from the pancreas to the small intestine, leading to poor absorption of nutrients. Over time, pancreatic tissue

can break down, resulting in diabetes.

"Near the end, I was pretty much only able to walk around a little bit," the 19-year-old said of the months before the transplant surgery, the last several weeks of which he spent in hospital tethered to an oxygen tank. "I couldn't walk longer than maybe 20 minutes, slowly, without getting out of breath."

Now, he can breathe. "That's the best part. I can just breathe and I don't wake up gasping for air. I can basically do anything." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Triple transplant recipient Reid Wylie, 19, goes for a walk outside his home a few weeks after his surgery at Toronto General Hospital. UNIVERSITY HEALTH NETWORK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto Catholic District School Board student trustees Karina Dubrovskaya, left, and Allison Gacad supported a motion to **allow 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in school board elections**. The motion failed in a 5-5 tie at the board's last meeting. CONTRIBUTED

Vote early, vote young

DEMOCRACY

Teens should be able to help elect trustees: Advocates



Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

The provincial government plans to make it easier for young people to vote for the first time by helping them to “preregister” to vote when they’re 16 or 17 years old.

Elections Ontario will run voter education and outreach program in schools, which will include preregistering them to vote, said Elections Ontario spokesman Andrew Willis.

They won’t be legally allowed to vote until they’re 18 — but then, they’ll be automatically added to the list of electors and the voting process will be easier and, if all goes according to plan, it will boost voter turnout among young Canadians.

The province’s Chief Electoral Officer had recommended the government allow youth to

preregister and, on Wednesday, the provincial government said in a press release it will support that plan.

But for some Toronto students and school board trustees, that’s great news — that just doesn’t go far enough.

“I think it’s a great first step,” Allison Gacad, a Toronto Catholic District School Board student trustee. “It’s encouraging students to start thinking about voting early, but it doesn’t do anything to lower the voting age.”

Gacad, and other student leaders, had worked with TCDSB trustee Jo-Ann Davis on a motion that would see the school board ask the province to give 16- and 17-year old the legal right to vote in trustee elections.

She, and the other student leaders, had hoped it would lead to allowing 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in all Canadian elections.

At 16, students have taken student courses and are already exposed to the democratic pro-

cess, she said.

“We learn so much about current events and politics, and we’re knowledgeable enough to vote.”

The TCDSB motion failed on a 5-5 tie at the board’s last meeting but Gacad said she and other student leaders are determined to keep pushing the issue forward.

Davis, who is a co-founder of the citizen group Unlock Democracy as well as a TCDSB trustee, will also press on with the issue, she said.

Studies have shown that voting is low among 18- to 30-year olds because Canadians become legal to vote at a time in their lives when they are moving away from home and their lives are

going through a period of upheaval, Davis said.

Getting them voting before that happens, could help them become lifelong voters.

“Any habit, a good habit or a bad habit is hard to stop, so let’s making this a habit,” said Davis.

“We’re knowledgeable enough to vote.”
Allison Gacad

ONLINE SURVEY

Youth voice needed to shape policy



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Toronto youth need a stronger voice in shaping the city’s future, and a recent survey is looking for ideas from young people to get there.

The Toronto Youth Cabinet — a youth-led advocacy group promoting participation of young people in civic matters — is pushing for more youth presence in shaping policies.

“Many young people don’t

know what the issues are when it comes to city policies, programs and services,” said Chloe-Marie Brown, the group’s director of policy and advocacy.

“We are looking to create a solid platform for conversations between youth and policy makers.”

The online survey was split into living, working and playing and probes participants’ understanding of city services, and ways to increase engagement in city-building, she said.

Data will be used to create

ways to give youth a voice in city planning, said Brown.

“Young people need to start calling their councillors and challenging them on actions resulting from policies,” she said.

Brown said the perception of youth participation in city matters is almost nonexistent.

“They want you to be on the table but they don’t necessarily want to hear your voice.”

The best way to change that is through community initiatives and business entrepreneurship, she said.



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16 shades of Kensington

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Book allows adults to view iconic market in a new light



Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

If you've ever wandered through Kensington Market and felt like changing some of the iconic neighbourhood's colour scheme, now you can.

A new adult colouring book focused on the Market and its history is launching this week, courtesy of Toronto's Keep 6 exhibits. United Colours of Kensington Market features 16 different drawings, depicting Kensington staples like the Kiever Synagogue and the No. 8 Fire Hall.

"There are colouring books that encompass the entire city, but the nice thing about this one is that it focuses on just one neighbourhood," said Keep 6 director Rafi Ghanaghounian,



There's already plenty of colour on the streets of Kensington Market. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

who also curated the colouring book.

Ghanaghounian moved to Kensington two decades ago when he was a student at OCAD. He says he fell in love with the neighbourhood in-

stantly, and he stayed there to raise a family. "I love that my son grew up around all the different cultures," he said. "You can walk down the street here and hear so many languages and there's shops that carry

things from the Caribbean to the Middle East."

The book is part of the growing trend of adult colouring books, aimed at people looking for a novel way to unwind.

"Drawing slows people down



United Colours of Kensington Market is a new adult colouring book. CONTRIBUTED

in a certain way. You're slowing down time and making a mark on paper," Ghanaghounian said.

Ghanaghounian said the last quarter of the book is left blank, to encourage people to draw their own designs or jot down words or poetry that comes to mind when thinking of Kensington Market.

He's already received inquiries from other neighbourhoods, and said a Beaches colouring book is in the works.

United Colours of Kensington Market can be pre-ordered online at keep6.ca, or purchased at Keep 6's location at 156 Augusta Ave.

WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Group targets \$1M bar



Mallory Chate
For Metro | Toronto

A Toronto business accelerator wants to increase the success rate for female-driven businesses, and put 10,000 female entrepreneurs on a million-dollar path within five years.

Heather Gamble and Nicola Morgan founded Women on the Move in March 2015. According to their website, less than two per cent of female entrepreneurs in Canada break a million dollars in annual revenue. To reach the goal of 10,000 women, Gamble says Women on the Move is on track to open 32 locations across Canada, including Vancouver, Calgary, London, Ottawa, and Pickering, starting in the spring.

Currently, in a weekly, nine month course called The She Factory, female entrepreneurs learn four essential skills for managing a successful business — sales, marketing, branding, and inter-personal.

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SEBASTIAN GIOVINCO

TORONTOFC.CA/MVP

Pearson joins low-carbon club

CLIMATE CHANGE

Cut emissions due mostly to greening the power grid

Toronto Pearson International Airport has cut its greenhouse gas emissions nearly in half (GHG), a feat equivalent to 44,800 tonnes of ozone-depleting carbon dioxide.

That achievement, nine years in the making, means Toronto Pearson has joined an elite league of only 10 airports in North America to be accredited as environmentally friendly by Airports Council International.

The announcement arrives just as UN climate change talks kicked off in Paris. More than 100 world leaders, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, are expected to negotiate plans to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

The greening of the province's electrical grid was responsible

for most of the reduction.

"The electricity that we get today is cleaner than it was in the past, with the closing of the coal-fired power plants," said Todd Ernst, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority's director of aviation infrastructure, energy and environment.

Reducing the airport's carbon footprint is particularly notable, he added, because aviation demand continues to rise. The country's busiest airport predicts it will surpass 40 million annual passengers before the end of this year, the first Canadian airport to do so.

According to the Canadian Airports Council, aviation accounts for two per cent of worldwide CO2 emissions from fossil-fuel use. It estimates

that will rise to three per cent by 2050.

But the environmental cost of flying extends far beyond jet fuel, which is where airport efforts can make a difference. Ernst said Toronto Pearson has initiated several energy-efficiency



An aerial view of Pearson's stormwater management system. ANDREW H. CLINE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

programs, including modernizing its buildings.

"The airport is a small city here," Ernst said, adding that heating, cooling and lighting all of the terminals is especially taxing on the system. Some upgrades will be noticeable right away, such as replacing metal

halide lights with LEDs, but most will take place behind the scenes.

In the past, the motors powering the airport's massive baggage systems would run constantly. Thanks to the installation of energy-efficient variable speed drives, the motors consume less power when not in use.

Because aircraft require power while gated at the airport, planes can now plug into Toronto Pearson's auxiliary power supply instead of running their own engines and burning jet fuel. Some airport employees now shuttle around in a small fleet of electric cars.

New additions to the airport, Ernst added, have been designed from the ground up with energy-consciousness and sustainability in mind.

The airport opened its first LEED-certified building in 2007, housing the Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute. The building's in-slab air distribution system reduces peak energy use by storing excess heat in concrete slabs for later use.

Toronto Pearson will continue to focus on reducing emissions through low-carbon technologies and adaptation measures. The plan is to cut down on the use of fuels such as natural gas.

"Our biggest impact now and going forward will be natural gas reductions," Ernst said. "GHG reductions from a unit of electricity saved are much less than a unit of natural gas burned."

Ernst suggested the GTAA may also start collecting and examining aircraft data gathered during taxiing and queuing for take-offs. This could lead to improvements that would minimize the distance and number of movements an airplane needs to make on the runway.

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Anonymous art for a cause

CHARITY

200 pieces go on sale to raise cash for people with cancer



Mallory Chate
For Metro | Toronto

More than 100 artists are uniting for two great reasons this week.

On Thursday, the Art for Cancer Foundation will raise money for creative programs for cancer patients while bringing attention to Toronto's art community, through the city's first Anonymous Art Show.

Organized by the non-profit's founder, Cid Palacio, the show will feature 200 pieces from 117 artists, unveiling who created what only after the artwork is sold.

"They're buying what they love and not being influenced by brand name," said Palacio, who was inspired by the successful anonymous art show hosted in North Vancouver over

the last few years.

Both upcoming and established local artists are participating in the four-day event, including several members from Toronto West Art Collective's annual Art Tour — a collection of local artists promoting artwork in the city's west end since 1997.

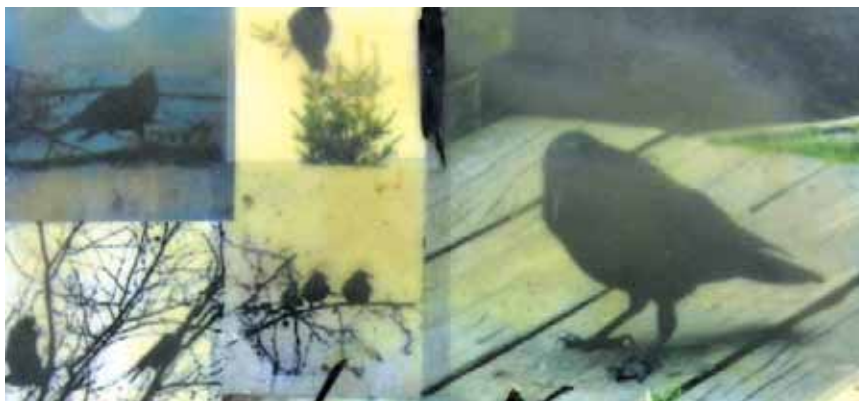
The majority of artists involved are Toronto locals or participants in their programs, though Palacio said they received two pieces from a contributor in Vancouver.

Paintings are one-of-a-kind but sized the same and priced equally at \$100, and they are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Artists — many who know someone with cancer — specifically made the artwork for the show because they care for the cause.

"All the art is fresh," said Palacio, adding she is excited for the "diversity and quality of art" being sold.

Proceeds will go toward funding the foundation's free creative programs for those living with cancer, giving them a creative outlet and a way to cope.



Some of the art on show at the special event. CONTRIBUTED

YONGE STREET

'Settled' road soon to reopen

Ongoing work to repair a destroyed stretch of roadway near Yonge and College streets has turned the busy intersection into a dirty, noisy construction site, but the city believes the road should reopen soon.

Kyp Perikleous, director for Transportation Services, said it's expected to be open by Dec. 11, "and hopefully sooner."

Work by Toronto Water and Transportation Services will cost about \$250,000, according to Perikleous, who said the figure was a "preliminary estimate."

The road has been closed since Nov. 20.

A section of road between 15 and 23 metres long, running from the middle of the road to the curb, dropped nearly 20 centimetres.

Perikleous said the damage is a "settlement," and not a sinkhole. Several factors helped create a "void" beneath the road's surface, according to Perikleous, who cited as reasons a watermain leak, utility cuts on the road and vibration from construction work on a nearby development. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Canadian mourns Good Samaritan

PAY IT FORWARD

Man paid \$200 for woman's groceries, died the next day

An Ontario woman is honouring a man she only met once because he died a day after paying for her groceries in a California grocery store.

Jamie-Lynne Knighten said she was struggling with her five-month-old son at a grocery store north of San Diego when she tried to use her credit card.

But it kept getting declined — there was a hold on it.

It was her Canadian credit card — she had just returned from visiting her family in Barrie, Ont. — and the only one the 28-year-old mother had on her as she forgot her other credit and debit cards at home.

That's when 29-year-old Matthew Jackson stepped up and offered to pay.

"May I take care of your gro-

ceries?" he asked.

She politely refused, but he insisted on paying the \$200 bill on Nov. 10.

So she relented after he made her promise to do the same thing for someone else another time. Knighten agreed.

"It felt like a huge bear hug," she said.

She only knew the man's first name at the time and where he worked — at the gym where she works out — and reached out a week later to thank him.

That's when she found out Jackson had died in a car crash about 24 hours after the two met.

After several weeks of trying to track down his family to tell them about Jackson's kindness without success, she took to Facebook.

"His death shouldn't go unnoticed," she said.

She wrote a heartfelt post on Facebook explaining the stranger's good deed and started a

group, called Matthew's Legacy, as a place to talk about random acts of kindness. The story exploded.

Hundreds posted messages of their "pay-it-forward" moments in honour of Jackson's thoughtfulness.

On Tuesday, Knighten said, she met with one of Jackson's friends who was with him in the car when it crashed into a tree.

He told her Jackson was in the middle of yet another act of kindness — taking his friend to the Walmart so he could buy transmission fluid to put into

his friend's broken-down car.

Knighten said she wants to honour Jackson, but is trying to figure out how to

harness all the kindness that is pouring out on the page.

"Maybe this can be a way to connect people who want to help with people who need help," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

His death shouldn't go unnoticed.

Jamie-Lynn Knighten



Berna and Myron Garron look on as a banner reveals the new name of the Toronto East General Hospital, Michael Garron Hospital, in honour of their son who died in 1975 of cancer.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DONATION

T.O. hospital gets a new name

Myron Garron had been putting on a brave face. Standing in the same hospital where his son Michael was born 53 years earlier, he started thanking family and friends. Then he stopped. Tears had broken through, and his voice had given out.

"I'll get over it, don't worry," he said after a long pause.

Diagnosed with a rare cancer of the soft tissues, Michael died at age 13 in 1975. His dying wish was that he wouldn't be

forgotten.

To honour that wish, Garron and his wife, Berna, on Wednesday donated an unprecedented \$50 million to Toronto East General Hospital. And its main campus was renamed the Michael Garron Hospital.

Berna burst into tears as she watched Michael's name, in three-metre-high letters, unveiled on the hospital. Later, she confessed to those around her that she hadn't believed the mo-

ment would ever happen until she saw it with her own eyes.

When he knew his time was limited, Michael confessed his biggest fear to Berna: "He thought for sure people would forget him."

She said she told her son there was no chance of that happening.

"As long as we were alive, he would never be forgotten," she said.

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Tory's fresh vision wins fans on council

STATE OF THE CITY

The true test of mayor's plan is on horizon, but signs are good



Luke Simcoe
Metro|Toronto

John Tory's plan to pay for transit and housing projects in Toronto was unveiled Wednesday in front of an audience that included some of the city's biggest names and even former prime minister John Turner.

However, the true test of his vision is still on the horizon.

Attendees at the Economic Club of Canada may have applauded his idea to raise taxes by 2.5 per cent to build a better city, but what really matters is how the mayor's colleagues on council feel — and how they vote.

"One of the great challenges of this job is to try to gather at least 23 votes and hopefully more," Tory told reporters after his speech. "I will now begin the task of gaining the support I believe I am going to get from the majority of council."

If early reaction is any indication, it appears Tory is going to avoid a repeat of the Gardiner Expressway vote in June, where his preferred "hybrid" option passed by a mere three votes.

The mayor's plan for what he's dubbed a "city building fund" was immediately endorsed by Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong, one of council's most conservative members and a frequent "nay" vote when it comes to new taxes.



Many issues Mayor John Tory, right, addressed during his Wednesday speech, are especially relevant to the downtown ward represented by Coun. Kristin Wong-Tam, left. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"You don't build a city with Monopoly money," Minnan-Wong said. "There are a lot of things that need to be done and the money has to come from somewhere."

Coun. Gord Perks, one of the unofficial leaders of council's left flank, also said he would be voting in favour.

"John Tory's come to his senses and realized that we have a revenue problem in the city," Perks said. "That's an important breakthrough and I welcome it."

Still, Perks said the mayor's plan will only cover about "one-fifth" of the city's capital spending backlog. And with the new tax not coming into effect until 2017, he noted it

+ POINT BY POINT

Tory's city building fund:

- It will be financed with a "modest" tax increase due to start at 0.5 per cent in 2017.
- It will increase annually, hitting 2.5 per cent in 2022.
- That translates into a \$13

increase each year for the average household and will eventually raise an estimated \$65 million annually.

- It's expected to finance about \$1 billion in additional borrowing.

LUKE SIMCOE

does nothing to address the current budget shortfall.

"We still need to have two conversations in Toronto: Do you want fewer services or higher taxes? There's no third option," Perks said.

He may still have to convince some councillors, but Tory was

confident that his plan will be supported by the public.

"People are fed up with announcement after announcement of great new projects to build a great new city and the projects never happened because there was no money set aside to pay for them," he said.

TORY'S BOLD MOVE

A broken promise, that's a good start

OPINION

Matt Elliott



Mayor John Tory strode up to a podium and broke a promise yesterday.

But I'm cool with it.

Not just because Tory never should have gotten into the business of recklessly promising to hold city property taxes at or below inflation, but because in dumping that promise and declaring that he'll ask council to create a property tax-supported "city building fund," Tory came up with something much, much better: a vision for Toronto.

And it's a complete vision. One that both acknowledges that Toronto badly needs to fund transit and housing and — this is the novel part — actually comes complete with a strategy to get the job done.

That's no small thing. For years, the loudest arguments at city hall have come from so-called "fiscal conservatives."

They talk a big game about delivering things by finding big government savings, but never seem to do so. Instead, city hall has developed a nasty habit of kicking fiscal problems down the road, merely delaying the inevitable fiscal crunch.

I've worried since Tory's election that he wouldn't do much to change that — that he'd just be another ineffec-

tual "fiscal conservative" obsessing over tax rates while city infrastructure literally crumbles.

Yesterday he showed signs he'll be doing things differently.

Sure, there are things I can criticize about Tory's plan. For one thing, it doesn't address the gaping hole in the 2016 budget or the ongoing need to fund operating costs. With his plan not kicking in until 2017, Tory will need to come up with a strategy to balance next year's budget real quick.

It also works against existing city fiscal policy to diversify revenues and not always look to the property tax base for more money. And the amount Tory's tax increase will raise — about \$65 million per year when fully implemented — is frustratingly close to the annual revenue councillors gave up when they repealed the vehicle registration tax in 2010. All of which makes me wonder if the last five years were just a big waste of my time.

But Tory's plan remains a big step in the right direction, and it came as a surprise to me.

I was expecting his standard speech about the need for Toronto to find elusive savings and keep taxes low. Instead, we got something different: a vision for city building with dollars attached.

I'd call that a good start.

For years city hall has developed a nasty habit of kicking fiscal problems down the road, merely delaying the inevitable fiscal crunch.

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+ HOT TOPICS MAYOR'S TAKE ON ISSUES THAT HIT AT THE HEART OF TORONTO

On Uber

Although the mayor didn't mention the ride-sharing service by name, he did note that "support for innovation is what differentiates me from those who would, for example, try to ban disruptive technologies in an era of rapid change."

On SmartTrack

The mayor framed his signature rail transit project in terms of equity, saying "more stations and more frequent service along those corridors will give the people of Toronto access to

the same great rail service within Toronto that is currently enjoyed by commuters coming in from Brampton and Markham."

On traffic

Tory promised to tackle bottlenecks on Toronto streets, saying he would "identify the 10 most congested intersections in the city and then do something to get the traffic moving."

On cycling

"We're going to complete a smart, responsible network of separated bike lanes."

On pedestrian safety

Tory showed a map of pedestrian deaths in Toronto and touted the city's road safety plan. He called pedestrian deaths "an unnecessary and unacceptable tragedy."

On housing

Tory acknowledged Toronto Community Housing is in crisis and said the city's targets on affordable housing "were missed by a mile" during the last term. Plugging TCH's \$2.5-billion backlog will require help from other levels of government, he said. "Not acting at all would

be irresponsible," he said. "Families who live in these buildings deserve better."

On the arts

"Toronto's culture is why people like to live here and why they visit as tourists."

On Justin Trudeau

Tory said he had every intention of holding the new prime minister to his promise of putting money toward city building. "Justin Trudeau campaigned on a city platform, and Toronto delivered him every single one of its ridings," he said.

Ontario pledges reactor facelifts

NUCLEAR ENERGY

Ten plants to be refurbished over 15 years for \$25 billion

Ontario is finally giving its aging nuclear fleet a multi-billion-dollar upgrade.

"The planned refurbishments will create almost 25,000 jobs and generate \$5 billion annually in economic activity," Premier Kathleen Wynne said Wednesday.

"We're moving ahead with significant steps right now to ensure that the refurbishment of Darlington and Bruce are done right. So that refurbishment is in the planning stages."

Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli is expected to announce Thursday the refurbishment of six of the massive Bruce nuclear plant's eight reactors.

That will be followed next month by the unveiling of a mid-life overhaul of Ontario

Power Generation's four reactors at Darlington.

Nuclear power accounts for the vast majority of Ontario's electricity generation — it was 65 per cent of output on Wednesday — so updating the huge facilities is critical.

While Chiarelli was tight-lipped at Queen's Park about his plans, he stressed that taxpayers would be protected from the cost overruns that plague most nuclear projects.

"There has been layer on layer on layer of due diligence that has been done. There has been razor sharp focus on price," the minister told reporters.

"We also have built into the process . . . some off-ramps," he said.

"They're long-term commitments, but they're off-ramps that enable us to change directions if need be, so we're very, very confident."

Chiarelli noted refurbishment "costs 50 per cent of building new nuclear."

"And the other thing that is more important now than

ever is there are no emissions from it," he said, referring to the fact that atomic power does not generate greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

"It also presents export opportunities for the companies involved in the nuclear sector in Ontario because in . . . China and India they're going nuclear because they're killing their people with pollution. They've got to have clean energy."

Refurbishing up to 10 reactors could cost \$25 billion and take 15 years.

Two years ago, Premier Kathleen Wynne's government indefinitely shelved plans for OPG to build two new reactors at Darlington.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

\$5 billion

Renovating the nuclear plants will inject \$5 billion into the economy, while creating 25,000 jobs.



The group poses for a picture near St. Lawrence Market as they reach the end of the photowalk.

COURTESY EVGENY TCHEBOTAREV

ACCESSIBILITY

Photowalk captures a new view



Mallory Chate
For Metro | Toronto

Two Toronto startups are hoping to change the way people see accessibility — and they're doing it through camera lenses.

Maayan Ziv, founder of Access-Now, and Evgeny Tchegotarev, founder of 500px, are working together on the idea of accessible photowalks.

The first one was Saturday — bringing together 50 photographers who "walked and rolled" from Yonge and Dundas to St.

Lawrence Market in an inclusive environment that accommodated people of all abilities. The group kept an open mind, moving at a slower pace, taking breaks and lending assistance when needed.

In the spring, the group plans to take the initiative even further. Tchegotarev says people will be able to hop in a wheelchair "so that they can experience the city the way tens of thousands of disabled people experience it daily."

Photographers taking part over the weekend were encouraged to take pictures themed around accessibility.

"Some may choose to show

that the city is not always accessible, some may show that despite disabilities people can still roll around and enjoy the parks," Tchegotarev said.



Photographers passed through this park along their route.

COURTESY EVGENY TCHEBOTAREV

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Just the Facts

Myths and legends about Car Insurance

The problem with insurance myths is that they lead us astray. They lead us to make decisions we might otherwise not make, or perhaps worse, end up costing us money.

Car Insurance Myth 1: The colour of the vehicle can affect the cost of car insurance coverage.

Fact: It would be quite difficult for the car insurance industry to defend why a red car would be more expensive to insure compared to a blue or green one. The problem is many licensed drivers believe this myth to be fact. The reality is that insurance is based on the

model, make, and year of the car as well as how likely it is to be stolen and how well it protects the driver and passengers if involved in a collision.

Car Insurance Myth 2: The insurance company will provide coverage when the car is vandalized, stolen, or damaged by fire or hail.

Fact: This is true only if you have purchased comprehensive car insurance coverage. If you do have it, damages resulting from things like vandalism, fire, theft, and hail

will be shouldered by the insurance company. Basically, comprehensive coverage will typically pay damages related to non-collision events.

Car Insurance Myth 3: New cars are more attractive to car thieves.

Fact: Statistics from the Insurance Bureau of Canada's (IBC) top 10 most stolen cars in 2014 reveal that older cars are stolen more than newer cars. It is believed that part of the reason that older cars are targeted is because they are less likely to have anti-theft devices, which are increasingly common in new cars.

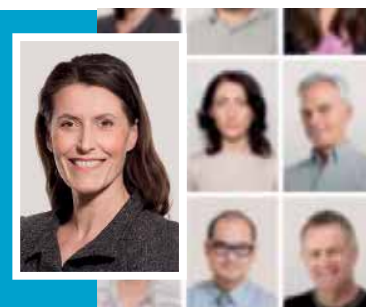
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— David and Mahnaz, Toronto, Ontario

By shopping on InsuranceHotline.com, Michelle saved up to \$700 on car insurance. That's a fact.



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Province knew about welfare issue

AUDITOR GENERAL'S \$REPORT

Ontario's Liberal government knew there were problems with a new system for disability and welfare payments, but decided to launch it anyway, the province's auditor general said Wednesday.

The minister responsible for the file, however, says, "Nobody told me."

Defects with the Social Assistance Management System became public when the system erroneously queued up \$20 million in overpayments last December. The Ministry of Community and Social Services said Wednesday that \$382,000 of that was actually paid out.

Auditor General Bonnie Lysyk said in her annual report Wednesday that the ministry knew there were problems with SAMS before its launch but rolled it out anyway before it could be properly tested.

Minister Helena Jaczek said she only became aware of the issues last December, like the public did.

The government is spending

\$52M

The amount the government is now spending to fix errors.

an extra \$52 million on fixes — bringing the total cost close to \$300 million — but the auditor general reports that the problems were, and continue to be, much more widespread. As of October, SAMS had erroneously calculated \$89 million in potential overpayments and \$51 million in potential underpayments, Lysyk found.

SAMS automatically corrected some of those errors while others were caused by the old system, leaving \$35 million, which the government is looking into, Jaczek said.

The government estimates SAMS won't become fully stable until the spring of 2016, so the full cost won't be known until then.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bonnie Lysyk, Ontario's auditor general, tables her 2015 annual report during a press conference at Queen's Park in Toronto on Wednesday. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumers pay more for Liberal decisions

Gaps in abuse checks put kids at risk: Lysyk

AUDITOR GENERAL'S \$REPORT

Ontario's Children's Aid Societies are not always checking for a history of abuse or assessing children's protection needs on time, putting kids at risk, the province's auditor general said Wednesday.

Bonnie Lysyk's office visited seven of Ontario's 47 Children's Aid Societies and in the files they reviewed, not a single child protection investigation was completed within the required 30 days of being notified of concerns. On average, those investigations were completed more than seven months later, Lysyk said. In one case, no investigation was ever completed.

In more than half of the cases the auditor general reviewed where a child had suffered abuse or there was an allegation of abuse, the CASs did not conduct a check of the child abuse register to see if there was a record of any history of abuse with the child or within the family, the auditor reported.

"Failure to conduct such crucial checks for the presence of domestic violence or child abuse at the time the child protection concern is reported, not only increases the risk that children are left in the care of individuals with such history, but also impacts the societies' ability to properly assess the risk to children," Lysyk said.

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AUDITOR GENERAL'S \$REPORT

Residents billed extra \$37 billion for electricity

Auditor general Bonnie Lysyk says electricity customers in Ontario have paid billions of dollars for the Liberal government's decisions to ignore its own planning process for new power generation projects.

The Ontario Power Authority's 20-year technical plan, which was updated every three years and reviewed by the Ontario

Energy Board, would have offered protection to consumers, said Lysyk.

"Instead of following the legislated process, the Ministry of Energy itself effectively assumed responsibility for electricity planning," she said.

The ministry issued policy plans and 93 directives that the auditor said "did not fully consider the state of the electricity market, did not take long-term effects fully into account," and sometimes went against the OPA's advice.

"Ontario electricity ratepayers have had to pay billions for these decisions," she said.

The electricity portion of hydro bills for homes and small

“... the Ministry of Energy itself effectively assumed responsibility for electricity planning.”

Bonnie Lysyk

businesses rose 70 per cent between 2006 and 2014, which Lysyk said cost consumers \$37 billion dollars in so-called Global Adjustment payments to generators — and will cost ratepayers another \$133 billion by 2032.

The auditor found the Green Energy Act is also driving up

rates. Hydro customers will pay a total of \$9.2 billion more for wind and solar projects under the Liberals' 20-year guaranteed-price program for renewable energy than they would have paid under the old program.

Ontario's guaranteed prices for wind power generators are double the U.S. average, while the province's solar power rates are three-and-a-half times higher.

The auditor said the lack of a co-ordinated planning process resulted in additional cost of \$408 million to pay generators for the increased power they produced, or for not producing power at the request of the system operator.

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Children of war on their way

SYRIAN REFUGEES

Families await flights to Canada in Irbid, Jordan

Here are the children of war. Some were born in exile in Jordan, while others watched their homes in Syria being destroyed and then had to flee the conflict with anxious parents and frightened siblings.

Now their young lives are about to undergo another profound transformation.

If all goes well, these children — and their families — will be resettled in Canada, once Canadian officials in Amman complete medical and security screening and issue them immigration documents.

The children, from five different families from towns in southern Syria, have been living in Irbid, in northern Jordan, and were photographed by Canadian Press journalist Paul Chiasson.

Some are coming to Canada under the private sponsorship

program, while others are in the government-sponsored stream.

The refugees know how fortunate they are. As Canada's massive humanitarian mission gets underway, other Syrians are calling the International Organization of Migration, begging to be among the 25,000 Syrians Canada has promised to bring here by the end of February.

"Syrians are reading about the Canadian mission in the press and they are very media savvy. Word gets out fast. We have to tell them to take their case to the UN," said Craig Murphy, with the IOM in Jordan.

On Sunday the IOM opened a processing centre on behalf of Canada in a military hangar in Marka, north of Amman. Officials have begun interviewing hundreds of Syrians a day.

The first plane of Syrian refugees is expected to be in the air by mid-December, said Murphy.

Refugees from both Jordan and Lebanon will fly through Amman, boarding Royal Jordanian charter flights in



1 **Tammim, 6** — His family came to Jordan in 2013, after heavy shelling in their village. 2 **Abedr, 2** — She is the youngest of four. Her father lost both his businesses in Syria to violence and shelling. 3 **Braa, 3** — Her family was originally hoping to go to the U.S. but now favour Canada because they feel it will be more welcoming towards Muslims. 4 **Mohammad** — He is baby brother of Tammim and was born in Jordan. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

groups of 300 or 350 bound for Toronto or Montreal.

"As soon as we have a threshold of 300 people who are travel-ready we will have our first charter flight," said

Murphy. "I expect a very quick turnaround time."

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is in charge of referring the cases to the IOM, for a second

set of interviews. The UN is focusing on families, single women and the most vulnerable, following Ottawa's direction.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

1,015

The number of permanent resident visas issued, but refugees have yet to arrive.

41,050

The number of text messages sent to potential refugee applicants interested in coming to Canada.

9,090

The number of refugee resettlement applications currently being processed.

271

The total number of Syrian refugees who have arrived in Canada.

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IMMIGRATION

Canada may welcome 50K refugees by the end of 2016

The federal government has already issued 1,015 permanent resident visas to Syrian refugees destined for a new life in Canada. Meanwhile, the federal government Tuesday signalled Canada could welcome as many as 50,000 refugees by the end of 2016.

"The number of refugees is likely to be in the order of 35,000 to 50,000," Immigration Minister John McCallum said Wednesday

after consulting with several provinces and territories over the numbers they will be able to take. "That's not yet in the official plan, but based on the discussions we've been having, it's likely to be in that order."

An estimated 271 Syrian refugees have been resettled in Canada since Nov. 4, with thousands more expected provided Ottawa finds sufficient airline capacity from Jordan and Turkey.

Those flights could begin as early as Dec. 10. Toronto's Pearson airport is preparing a rarely used terminal that will be dedicated to processing the refugees.

McCallum said Tuesday that the federal government needs to do a better job of communicating both the challenges and successes of that campaign pledge, in order to keep Canadians informed and on board with their effort.

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Immediate priorities the focus of throne speech

PARLIAMENT

MP drops out of Speaker race after ALS diagnosis

The Trudeau government's first throne speech is likely to be one of the shortest in Canadian history.

Insiders say the speech, to be read by Gov. Gen. David Johnston on Friday, will be little more than a list of the new Liberal government's immediate priorities, with minimal rhetorical

flourishes and no surprises.

It won't mention every federal department.

It won't recap every single promise made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during the federal election campaign.

Rather, it will be a brief recitation of the urgent promises Trudeau intends to move on over the coming year — those aimed at improving the lot of struggling middle-class Canadians foremost among them.

The brevity and tight focus of the speech is modelled on throne speeches in the mother of Parliaments in the United Kingdom, which typically run less than

1,000 words and takes the Queen less than 10 minutes to read.

The speech from the throne marks the start of a new session of Parliament, following the election Thursday of a new Speaker of the House of Commons.

But while Liberals are still basking in the afterglow of their upset victory on Oct. 19, their triumphant return to the government side of the aisle in the Commons has been dampened by news that one of their veteran MPs, Mauril Belanger, is facing a devastating health crisis.

Belanger, who had been in the running to become Speaker, was diagnosed late last week with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. He withdrew from the race on Monday. A grim-faced Trudeau accompanied Belanger into the closed-door meeting, which MPs later said was very emotional.

Cape Breton MP Rodger Cuzner had tears in his eyes as he spoke of Belanger.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ballot boxes are put in place as staff and pages prepare the House of Commons in advance of Thursday's vote for the new Speaker on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISIL

U.S. expects NATO allies to step up: Kerry

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has delivered a tough, unambiguous message to NATO members, including Canada, saying the United States expects them to do more in the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

The blunt talk on Wednesday was particularly significant for Justin Trudeau's Liberal government, which has pledged to end the Canadian bombing campaign and refocus the military commitment on training local forces, including police.

Kerry told his 27 other counterparts meeting in Brussels that the international coalition must strike at the core of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq and strangle its efforts to set up networks elsewhere.

"I called on every NATO ally to step up its fight against Daesh," Kerry said, using the Arabic reference for the ISIL.

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He's a great guy, he's truly respected, just an honourable, hard-working guy, smart, more than likely would've been a strong, strong candidate for Speaker. He loves this place ... It's tragic.

Rodger Cuzner, speaking of MP Mauril Belanger

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BROKEN BONDS | PART III

Former inmate and prisoner advocate Mo Korchinski. The idea of mothering a child while in jail “forced you to look deep ... and that started the healing process,” she says. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

For incarcerated women, motherhood can be life-changing. One jail in B.C. was helping inmates make the most of that opportunity. Now, the fight is on to ensure that it still can.

‘Everybody needs hope’

Sidney Cohen
For Metro

“If you consent to this call being recorded, and if you accept this call as a collect call, dial one now.”

It's June 10, and the automated message indicates Melody Hutchinson is calling collect from a payphone inside Alouette Correctional Centre for Women.

Hutchinson is 25 and indigenous, from Trail, B.C. She is pregnant and due to give birth about two weeks before her release at the end of July.

Hutchinson is trying, desperately, to access Alouette's mother-baby program, which allows women who give birth while incarcerated to live with their children inside jail.

“They're not even giving me a chance. My son's not even born yet. People make mistakes, but people change,” Hutchinson says.

The program ran from 2005-2008 before being shut down. Inmates then challenged the closure in court, on constitutional grounds. In 2013, a B.C. Supreme Court judge ruled that cancelling the program violated the charter rights of mothers and babies to be together.

Following a \$163,000 renovation, B.C.'s Ministry of Justice announced the reopening of Alouette's mother-baby unit in June 2014. But since then not one inmate has been allowed to participate.

Hutchinson says she has been in and out of jail since she was a teenager and had a “crazy

childhood.” Her father was a musician who travelled a lot when she was young, she says, and her mother was an addict. She spent time in foster care and youth corrections. She tried crack for the first time at age 13.

Hutchinson has two other young children who live together with adoptive parents in Coquitlam. When she found out she was pregnant for a third time

ette's mother-baby unit. Instead, he was put into foster care.

Decisions about who can participate in the program are made by B.C. Corrections on a case-by-case basis. The branch looks at “each woman's risk assessment, history of offences or any court orders prohibiting contact with children,” said a B.C. Ministry of Justice spokesperson in an email sent June 3.

“It doesn't take rocket science to keep a baby with a mother. It takes motivation at the top levels.”
Dr. Ruth Elwood Martin, UBC Centre for Prison Health and Education

last fall, Hutchinson says, “I just wanted to change my life. I was freaked out and I didn't want to lose my son.”

In February, Hutchinson says, she relapsed after several months off drugs.

Her brother was about to go to jail for a long time on weapons charges, and they partied on and off for three weeks. She was arrested in March for theft breaching her bail.

“All I want them to see is that I'm trying,” Hutchison says. “To have someone from the ministry be like, ‘You know what, we're here to help you, OK? And if you can commit to this goal, than we will help you succeed.’”

Time's up and the call is cut.

Hutchinson served four months at Alouette. She gave birth on July 5, but her baby boy was not admitted to Alder, Alou-

If there's a suggestion the child may be at risk, the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) will get involved.

“If a woman has applied to the Mother-Child Program and MCFD has child protection concerns, BC Corrections waits for MCFD's independent decision to be made before finalizing the application,” wrote another justice ministry spokesperson.

While she was pregnant at Alouette, Hutchison took life-skills classes, she signed up for outpatient drug treatment, and she got letters of support from her lawyer and her father.

But MCFD was skeptical.

“They're basically saying there's not enough supervision, that I'm high-risk for my kid,” she said during the June 10 phone conversation. “I'm just so freaked out.”

Dr. Ruth Elwood Martin is director of the University of British

Columbia's Collaborating Centre for Prison Health and Education and was a physician at Alouette during the mother-baby program's first iteration. She says that, in order for the program to work, all the ministries need to be on board.

“What needs to happen is political will to have the different ministries — Health, Children and Family Development, Justice — to actually collaborate over finding a way to keep the babies with their mothers while the mothers are incarcerated.”

Brenda Tole, a former Alouette warden who oversaw the creation and operation of the mother-baby program, agrees.

“You have to have the initiative to work with all of those ministries and community agencies to bring back all that support, and I'm not sure ... if the will is there to do that. What's happening right now is they're just saying that the Ministry of Children and Families is not supportive, it's not in the plan. Well, really, their only other plan is foster care and that's a terrible outcome,” she says.

“I almost wish that a lot of the people who have control over this could have a direct conversation with someone that's lost their baby.”

Advocates say that Alouette, though not ideal, is a practical place in which to introduce a woman to motherhood and to teach approaches to parenting.

The jail's premises are surveilled 24 hours a day, there is

a drug-and-alcohol counsellor and parenting classes, and the health care centre is attached to the mother-baby unit.

Mo Korchinski, a prisoner advocate and former Alouette inmate, says that a lot of women entering jail have lost hope. They are living on the streets, killing themselves slowly with drugs and alcohol.

Like many addicted women who wind up in jail, Korchinski lost her kids when she became an addict. “(The mother-baby program) forced you to look deep,” she says. “And those feelings of a mother — you couldn't deny them anymore 'cause it was right in your face, and that started the healing process.”

A recent Statistics Canada report found that 94 per cent of women in provincial jails struggle with substance abuse.

“Where is it going to change?” Korchinski asks, and then emphatically answers her own question: “It changes with the mother-baby program, because these women now have hope. ... Everybody needs hope and everybody needs a purpose in life.”

This summer UBC's prison-health centre published a set of guidelines and best practices for prison mother-baby programs. Advocates hope the guidelines will help meaningfully reactivate the Alouette's program, which, despite the province's assurances that it is available, has not hosted any of the three mothers, including Melody Hutchinson, who have given birth at Alouette since the program's 2014 reopening.

Broken Bonds

PART I

“A success story”

Tues. Dec. 1

PART II

“It all falls apart”

Wed. Dec. 2

PART III

“What now?”

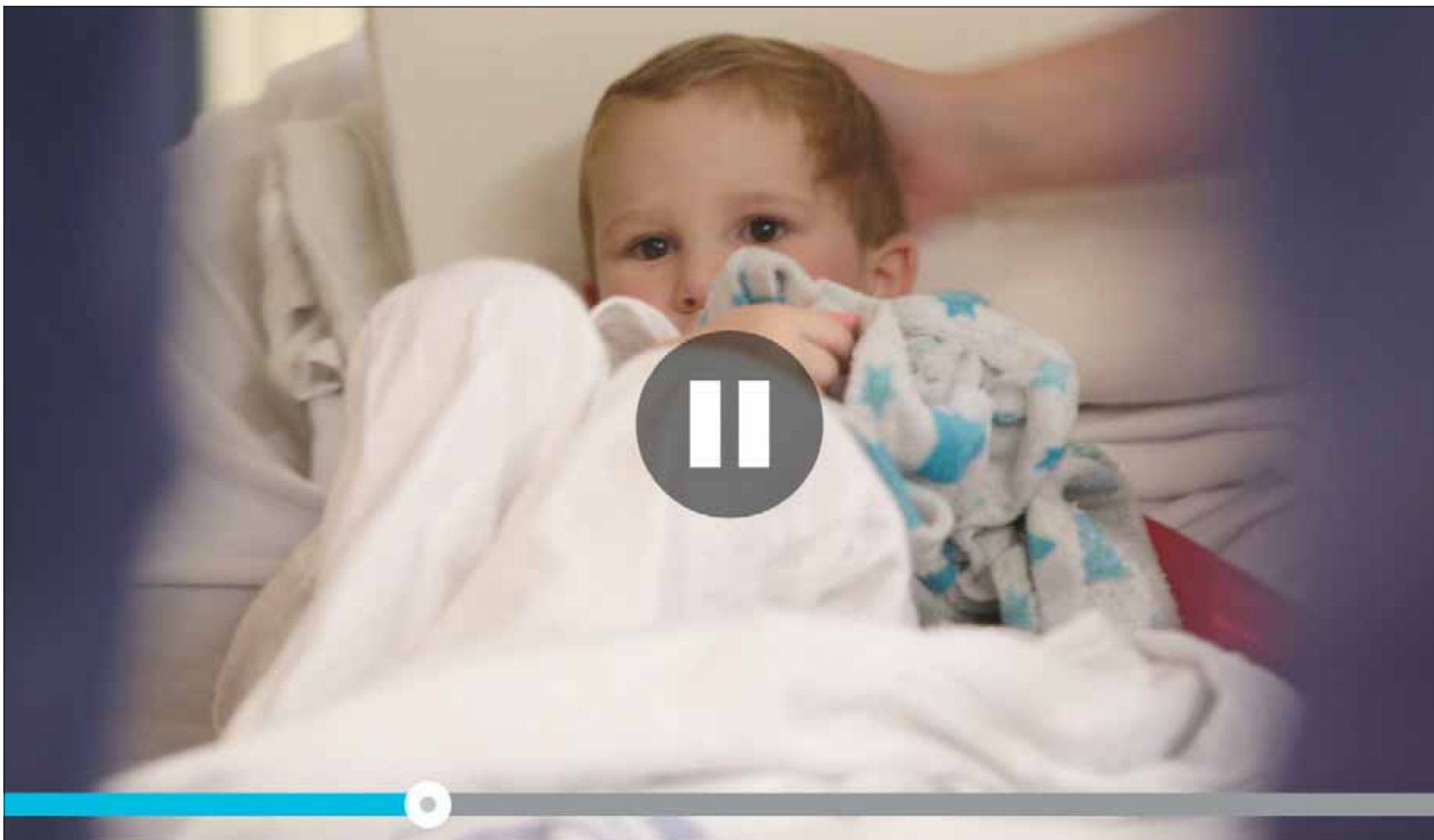
Thurs. Dec. 3

Today Hutchinson is working full-time and living in Terrace B.C., near her father. She's struggling to recover her son from the foster family he was placed with while she was in jail.

“Her son's here in Maple Ridge and they won't transfer him up,” says Korchinski, who's trying to help Hutchinson get custody of her baby. “She has to take a 28-hour Greyhound bus ride down here to see him, and she gets a two-hour visit a day, and she has to take a week off at work.”

Korchinski says Hutchinson's going to keep fighting to get her son back, but it's harder now that he's growing attached to his foster family.

Each time Hutchinson visits her son, Korchinski says, she will “go through that all over again.” “I was with her when she went and visited him. I was in tears for her.”



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New Real Estate Bonanza

Right now while you are reading this, hedge funds are buying U.S. property in mass. Foreign nationals are loading up on houses as fast as they can. Some savvy individuals are snapping up housing in the U.S. like never before.

In October, *Reuters* reported private investment firm Starwood Capital Group got in the game. They purchased 23,262 mid-rise and garden-style apartments for a whopping \$5.37 billion. Other hedge funds are buying entire subdivisions under construction.

The Chinese are the number one overseas investors of U.S. real estate. Often they will buy 10 condos at once, sight unseen.

Does all this investment activity show the U.S. headed for another property bubble? The answer is no.

Demographics are driving demand for rental property to heights unseen in American history. *Bloomberg Business* says rents are only going higher.

The Millennials saddled with student debt, are choosing to rent. Others want to live in cities and avoid long commutes home ownership often demands.

One of the fastest growing demographic segments in the U.S. is those over age 65. Their downsizing activity is flooding the market with discounted property.

Foreclosures, Flips & Flowing Money

Foreclosures clogged in the U.S. courts are now surging. Those that know how are gaining windfalls of opportunity for flips or portfolio growth.

Yet individual investors are asking, "Can I still find good



Warren Buffet told CNBC he would buy a couple hundred thousand single family homes if he could.

deals in U.S. property?" The answer is an emphatic YES.

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- How to close property deals over the phone in 9 minutes or less

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TURNKEY TRAININGS

What is known so far

• Lt. Rich Lawhead said Wednesday that a call came in just before 11 a.m. that multiple shots had been fired in the area of the Inland Regional Center.

Lavinia Johnson, executive director of the Inland Regional Center, told CNN that somebody pulled the fire alarm, and shortly after, the building went into lockdown. • FBI agents and other law enforcement authorities converged on the centre and searched room to room for the attackers, but they had apparently escaped.

Several people locked themselves in their offices, desperately waiting to be rescued by police, after the gunfire erupted. Some texted their loved ones or telephoned them and whispered to them what was going on.

• As the manhunt went on, stores, office buildings and at least one school were locked down in the city of 214,000 people about 100 kilometres east of Los Angeles, and roads were blocked off.

• The Inland Regional Center provides services for more than 30,000 people in the region with developmental delays and their families, and employs 670 staff according to its Facebook page.

• Brandon Hunt, an employee at the Inland Regional Center, told CNN that there was a banquet for county personnel inside the building and that the shooting happened in the auditorium. There were about 500 IRC employees inside the building, Hunt said. "Employees were locked in offices, closets, just to try and stay safe," he said.

• Police shed no light on a motive for the massacre.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shooting in California centre leaves 14 dead

SAN BERNARDINO

Police say two suspects have been killed

Police said two suspects, one male and one female, are dead after the shooting at a Southern California social services centre.

San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said at a news conference Wednesday that authorities found what they believe is an explosive device at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino. Bomb squads

were working on it. The FBI says it's possible the shooting is "terrorism."

Burguan says the suspects were wearing "assault-style clothing" and were both armed with assault rifles and handguns.

Police were serving a search warrant on a home in Redlands, Calif., in connection with the deadly shooting.

City spokesman Carl Baker said Redlands police were assisting San Bernardino police in the search connected to the shooting that killed at least 14 people and wounded more than a dozen others.



We have a pattern now of mass shootings in this country that has no parallel anywhere else.

U.S. President Barack Obama

Half a dozen vehicles carrying helmeted police drove into the area and an officer ordered reporters to clear the area, and an armoured vehicle parked outside a row of homes.

The action followed a gun battle between occupants of an SUV and police not far from the original shooting scene.

As many as three gunmen believed to be wearing military-

style gear opened fire Wednesday at a Southern California social services centre "as if they were on a mission," authorities said.

Hours later, police hunting for the attackers riddled a black SUV with gunfire several miles away, and one person lay motionless in the street with a gun nearby. Officers appeared to remove a second person from the vehicle.

Police spokeswoman Sgt. Vicki Cervantes said authorities had not immediately confirmed whether those in the SUV were involved. As darkness fell, law officers swarmed a neighbourhood about a mile from the SUV, apparently in a hunt for a possible third gunman.

It was the nation's deadliest mass shooting since the Newtown, Conn., attack in December 2012 that left 26 children and adults dead.

It was the 355th mass shooting in the U.S. this year, the Washington Post reported.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



1 A SWAT team arrives near the scene of a shooting in San Bernardino, Calif. As many as three gunmen opened fire at a social services facility. 2 Women speak with a firefighter at the triage area 3 A police helicopter hovers over the Inland Regional Center. LOS ANGELES NEWS GROUP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MIDDLE EAST

ISIL targeting homosexuals

Before a crowd of men on a street in the Syrian city of Palmyra, the masked Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) judge read out the sentence against two men convicted of homosexuality. They would be thrown to their deaths from the roof of the nearby Wael Hotel.

He asked one of the men if he was satisfied with the sentence. Death, the judge told him, would help cleanse him of his sin.

"I'd prefer it if you shoot me in the head," 32-year-old Ha-was Mallah replied helplessly. The second man, 21-year-old Mohammed Salameh, pleaded for a chance to repent, promis-

ing never to have sex with a man again, according to a witness among the onlookers that sunny July morning.

"Take them and throw them off," the judge ordered. Other masked extremists tied the men's hands up and blindfolded them. They led them to the roof of the four-story hotel, according to the witness, who spoke in Reyhanli, Turkey on condition he be identified only by his first name, Omar.

Notorious for their gruesome killing methods, ISIL reserves one of its most brutal for suspected homosexuals. Videos it has released show militants dangling

men over the precipices of buildings by their legs to drop them head-first or tossing them over the edge. At least 36 men in Syria and Iraq have been killed by ISIL militants on charges of sodomy, according to the New York-based OutRight Action International.

A 26-year-old Syrian gay man told The Associated Press that even two years after fleeing to Turkey, he wakes up shaken by nightmares that he is about to be hurled from a building. The man spoke on condition that he be identified as Daniel Halaby, the name he now uses in his activism tracking ISIL atrocities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

U.K. votes to launch airstrikes over Syria

British lawmakers voted by a wide margin Wednesday to join the international campaign of airstrikes against the ISIL in Syria, after Prime Minister David Cameron asserted that bombing the "medieval monsters" in their heartland would make Britain safer.

The 397-223 vote in the House of Commons means Royal Air Force fighter jets — already operating against ISIL in Iraq — could be flying over Syria immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIGHTING ISIL

Kurds' leading role complicates alliance

Drawing on thousands of combatants from Syria's mix of religious and ethnic groups, a U.S.-backed alliance called the Syrian Democratic Forces has emerged as the most effective fighting force against the ISIL group.

But the dominant role of Kurdish fighters in the alliance is a concern for majority Sunni Arab factions and their regional backers, raising questions about the group's future role in a broader political context in Syria.

The coalition already faces opposition from other groups fight-

ing to topple President Bashar Assad because those groups widely distrust the Kurds.

And while the coalition has been capturing territory steadily in northern Syria from extremists, it is hampered greatly by its inability to retake areas with a majority Sunni Arab population.

In a devastated landscape where extremists and Islamic groups largely preside, the Syrian Democratic Forces are the closest thing to an inclusive and moderate fighting force in Syria.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



INDIA FLOODS STRAND RESIDENTS People wade through a flooded street in Chennai, the capital of the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday. Weeks of torrential rains have forced the airport in Chennai to close and have cut off several roads and highways, leaving tens of thousands of people stranded in their homes, government officials said Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High stakes in climate talks

ENVIRONMENT

World leaders' negotiations likened to movie plot

With world leaders back home, it's time for the hardcore negotiators to work on the more mundane guts of a climate deal, and they are being told to quicken their pace.

Generally, climate negotiations follow a certain rhythm, veteran negotiators and observers say. Wednesday is the middle of the nitty-gritty time when the building blocks of a deal start to form.

"It's like seeing an action movie," said former U.S. climate negotiator Nigel Purvis, who is now president of Climate Advisers. "There's generally a plot, bad guys come to threaten the world. Eventually humanity rallies together and

overcomes. That's the kind of thing that happens here."

For the next few days, negotiators will be working to get the less-controversial subjects finished and explore possible compromises on the bigger sticking points, all before work gets kicked up to higher levels. The lower-level negotiators have a Saturday-noon deadline to come up with language for a new text of a deal that narrows the options to something the big guns start with, according to French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, who is the president of the climate talks.

"We must speed the process up because we have much work to do," Fabius said at a Wednesday news conference. "Compromise solutions must be found as soon as possible."

A record number of world leaders gathering in one place to discuss the single issue of climate change sends a strong signal, United Nations climate chief Christiana Figueres said.



Eventually humanity rallies together and overcomes. That's the kind of thing that happens here.

Nigel Purvis, President of Climate Advisers

Fabius called it "strong momentum," a phrase echoed later Wednesday by chief U.S. negotiator Todd Stern.

The key is for many issues to be settled by Saturday, Fabius said, who repeatedly mentioned the need to speed up negotiations.

At Wednesday's press conference, Figueres referred to the importance of punctuation.

Negotiations "will go through ups and downs," she said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AFGHANISTAN

Kunduz rebuilds amid fear of unrest

Two months after the Taliban rampaged through the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, residents sift through rubble, wonder how they will rebuild and worry insurgents will return.

The Taliban swept into the strategic northern city in late September, holding it for three days and looting and destroying shops before being driven out by a massive counteroffensive backed by U.S. airstrikes.

The street by street fighting devastated wide swaths of

Kunduz at a time when Afghanistan's finances are stretched thin by a seemingly never-ending war. International aid is being scaled down alongside the withdrawal of most foreign troops.

The acting spokesman for the governor of Kunduz, Abdul Wasi Basel, said the priority was security, followed by restoring water, electricity and other services. Only then, he said, would government offices be rebuilt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEES

EU denies pact to take 500K Syrians

Hungary's prime minister said Wednesday he expects a German-led secret pact to be revealed soon that would bring up to 500,000 Syrians from Turkey directly into the European Union, but EU leaders rejected the claim.

Prime Minister Viktor Orban said a similar idea was rejected recently by European leaders but the new scheme will be announced in Berlin as soon as this week.

"This secret background agreement exists. And we will be confronted by it in the coming days," Orban said.

He said the plan included forcing all EU countries to take in some of the migrants, even if they are opposed to mandatory relocation quotas.

EU Commission vice-president Frans Timmermans rejected Orban's assertion. "I'll try to explain this in clear terms — nonsense." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Montenegro invited to join NATO alliance

NATO offered to take in Montenegro on Wednesday and thus expand its reach in southeast Europe, prompting a brisk Russian threat of retaliatory measures against the tiny Slavic country.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry insisted the alliance is "not a threat to anybody."

The offer culminated a meeting of NATO foreign ministers overshadowed by the alliance's complex relationship and tensions with Moscow over issues such as Crimea, eastern Ukraine and Syria.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

American civilian held hostage: U.S. official

An American civilian is being held by a Taliban-linked militant group in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, the Haqqani network, according to a U.S. official.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the situation, would not discuss the man's identity or the circumstances of his capture.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Computer science is now child's play

EDUCATION

Kindergarten kids learning programming in new push

Moving her finger over the laptop trackpad, six-year-old Lauren Meek drags and drops a block of code to build a set of instructions. She clicks the "run" button and watches as the character moves through a maze. She then pumps her fist in excitement.

"Yes! This is so easy," says Meek, a kindergartner at Marshall Elementary in Marysville, north of Seattle.

This fall, most elementary school students in the Marysville School District are getting 40-minute weekly computer science lessons as part of their core instruction — part of a growing effort nationwide to expose more public school children to computer science, even as early as in kindergarten.



Fifth grade students work on programming during their computer science lesson at Marshall Elementary School in Marysville, Wash. The school joined a growing movement across the U.S. to expose more children to computer science. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Backed by technology leaders, nonprofits and companies, schools in New York, San Francisco and other cities have committed to offer computer science in all grade levels.

Currently, computer science is taught in only about one of four high schools nationwide with fewer in lower middle and elementary school grades. And only 27 states allow a computer

science course to be counted toward graduation requirements in math or science, according to Code.org, a Seattle-based national non-profit.

But there's been a surge in interest in recent years. In 2015, nearly 49,000 students took the Advanced Placement exam in computer science, a 25 per cent increase from the previous year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEB CULTURE

Yahoo travels road taken by ex-rivals

Yahoo Inc. is mulling selling off its web portal and search engine, the brands that defined its rise in the late 1990s. Here's a look back to those heady dot-com days to explore Yahoo's former competitors.

ASK JEEVES: Launched in 1998, it invited users to type in a full question for a more organic kind of query. By 2006, the company "fired" Jeeves and morphed into Ask.com.

AOL: It provided dial-up service to millions in the second half of the 1990s. In 1998, it bought Netscape and in 2001 merged with Time Warner. Things went

south from there. Broadband gobbled up its dial-up customers and the dot-com bubble decimated its stock value.

ALTAVISTA: One of the first search engines in the late '90s, it was snapped up in 2003 for a mere \$140 million. Subsequently bought by Yahoo!, it folded into that search engine's index, and officially died in 2013.

MSN: Launched by Bill Gates the same day as Windows 95, it is one of the few early pioneers to endure. MSN is still the gateway to millions of Hotmail and Outlook accounts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ford pickup trucks top most-stolen list

An insurance industry association says pickup trucks are the hottest vehicle for thieves.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada says the Ford F-350 and F-250 models take up nine spots on its top 10 list of most frequently stolen vehicles. The other vehicle is a Cadillac Escalade SUV.

The insurance association says Canadian border guards are seeing shipping containers stocked with car and truck parts in an effort to fool inspectors.

They say they have recovered more than \$10 million in stolen vehicles at the ports this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Complaints regarding wireless services drop

Canadians had fewer official complaints about their wireless communication services but more concerns about their Internet plans, according to the latest report from the telecom industry's consumer watchdog.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BoC keeps rate at 0.5%

The Bank of Canada left its interest rate unchanged at 0.5 per cent Wednesday, saying Canada continues to deal with low commodity prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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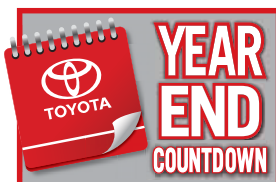
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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE BETA-VERSION LIBERAL GOVERNMENT



“In his new role, Justin Trudeau is turning out to be a bit of an Energizer bunny. His batteries don't seem to run out. Time will tell if his on/off switch functions as well, if at all.

It's really a beta version of his government that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is introducing to the House of Commons this week.

More than half of his ministers are taking a seat in the Commons for the first time on Thursday and a good number of them cannot yet count on the backing of a full staff to see them through their parliamentary baptism of fire.

It has barely been a month since they have all been sworn in.

Jean Chrétien, who was first elected in late October 1993, did not reopen Parliament until almost three months later.

In 2006, Stephen Harper gave himself more than two months before his minority Conservative government entered the Commons.

In his new role, Trudeau is turning out to be a bit of an Energizer bunny. Like the rabbit in the iconic commercial, his batteries don't seem to run out. Time will tell whether his on/off switch functions as well, if at all.

The prime minister is eager to bring in the targeted family tax cuts he campaigned on. Those — along with the costs of the Liberal Syrian refugee resettlement plan — are to be put to votes over the short parliamentary sitting.

But in practical terms, that could have waited until after the new year with little harm done to the 2016 tax planning of Canadians or to the capacity of the government to spend

on resettling refugees.

Similarly, the parliamentary committees Trudeau plans to put in place to deal with time-sensitive files such as medicinally assisted suicide or the Trans-Pacific trade deal will be hard-pressed to accomplish much between now and the first weeks of January.

In opposition, Trudeau revelled in his life on the road — outside the Parliament Hill fishbowl. His sense that the fortunes of his government will not necessarily play out on the stage of the Commons may account for his willingness to treat this first sitting more as an audition than a definitive production.

Before this fall, no federal party had ever jumped from third to first place. It is possible that few anticipated the magnitude of the staffing challenge that stood to result from

that feat.

The Liberal support crew that crossed the aisle from opposition to government along with Trudeau was the smallest ever. From 36 offices in opposition, the party in government now has to fill positions in 184, including 31 ministerial suites plus the Prime Minister's Office.

The civil service was always going to play a larger role in the affairs of a Liberal government than it did under Stephen Harper. In these early days, it is doing so as much by default as by design.

The other collateral consequence of Trudeau's decision to hit the ground running has been to consolidate the already uncommonly strong links between his administration and Kathleen Wynne's Ontario government.

Much of the intellectual and

strategic impetus behind his victory hailed from Queen's Park's Liberal backrooms and it is the place the new government has turned to for seasoned staff.

Ontario is lining up to be the major presence in Trudeau's corridors of power what Quebec was in the days of his father, Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien.

Past federal governments had an adversarial relationship with their Ontario counterparts. But for a rare time, the Liberals are in power at tandem at Queen's Park and on Parliament Hill. For better or for worse, the close ties between the two governments could become a defining feature of Trudeau's mandate.

As Liberals pour into the national capital, the other parties are undergoing a brain drain of sorts.

NDP campaign chief Anne McGrath has migrated to Edmonton and Alberta's New Democrat government. Thomas Mulcair's chief-of-staff, Alain Gaul, has gone back to Montreal.

The Bloc Québécois has lost the party's second-in-command, Catherine Fournier, to PQ leader Pierre Karl Lévesque and the national assembly.

With no Conservative government in any of the four larger provinces, hundreds of former aides to the previous government make up a wandering army of political orphans.

A hyperactive prime minister may be just what the opposition parties need to get over their post-election doldrums.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The Pirelli calendar isn't a feminist victory. It's all about Annie Leibovitz.

It's ridiculous to call the calendar a calendar — or even the product of Pirelli, the high-end tire company that pays for it.

It's all about Annie Leibovitz. In the past, the company has let photographers do as they please while shooting the annual calendar/marketing play/exclusive photography collection that is reportedly only gifted to 20,000 VIPs.

Mostly, photographers shot sexy, naked or half-naked models. Even Leibovitz opted for clothes-free women in 2000, when she first shot the calendar, though her work then was on the artsy end of the nude-pictorial continuum.

This time she's produced 12 moving portraits of mostly clothed women, chosen not for their erotic power but for their economic or cultural might.

"This calendar is so completely different," Leibovitz says in a promotional video.

But the difference is not so much a sign of the times as a sign of Leibovitz's politics.

"Believe me, I do not think naked girls are going out of fashion," says writer and subject Fran Lebowitz, before jumping on the bandwagon: "But it's interesting that people are interested in different ways of looking at women."

Are they? Or are they interested in being associated with Leibovitz, one of the world's most respected and highly paid photographers? She personally invited the

calendar's models — a comic star, a Hollywood producer, a tennis sensation, a modern-art matriarch. Many of them told the media that it was the chance to work with Leibovitz that persuaded them to pose.

Other women, and similar portraits, could have been shot a decade ago. There's nothing about this moment that's inhospitable to sexualized nudity, except, perhaps, the fear of being cliché. It's more a question of taste, in other words, than of politics.

If anything, you might hail this as a moment not for women, but powerful women, a depiction of female accomplishment at rarefied levels. That Leibovitz might want to celebrate that subculture shouldn't surprise — she belongs to it.

"To pay tribute to women at all ages who have accomplished something, it's quite a statement," says the Iranian artist and subject Shirin Neshat in the video.

Not quite. Yes, we should absolutely acknowledge women's accomplishments. We should absolutely celebrate beauty, clothed. But neither should be construed as synonymous with women's status in general.

The new Pirelli calendar is either Annie Leibovitz's ode to women of power, or their ode to Leibovitz, or both, destined for the walls of the elite few.

And Pirelli? It just wants to sell tires.

THE MICROTREND: Turning the frown upside-down



And you thought *your* yearbook photos of years past were embarrassing. In the 1910s, a murderous stare and toothless grimace were the norms. Researchers at the University of California and Brown University have published a digital analysis of 37,000 senior yearbook portraits from 1905 to 2013. They found the corners of our mouths have been steadily turning upwards for a century. Thanks to our increasingly casual culture — and perhaps modern dentistry — smiles have gotten wider, jollier and more revealing of pearly whites, with a noticeable shift around the 1940s. Smiling in snapshots was once considered idiotic and embarrassing. Richard Beard, the owner of Britain's first portrait-photography studio, instructed his 19th-century subjects to set their mouths in a stern line by saying not "cheese" but "prunes." SOURCE: THE WASHINGTON POST

Ontario is lining up to be the major presence in Trudeau's corridors of power.

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Moz gets award for bad sex writing
Morrissey wins annual Literary Review Bad Sex award for a scene in his first novel, *List of the Lost*.

Five quirky books to gift

Twisted cat poetry only Charles Bukowski could have come up with and life lessons from *Little Miss* are among the holiday season's more unusual books. Here are five suggestions. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

1 On Cats by Charles Bukowski, edited by Abel Debritto

This anthology of the late writer's poems and short prose honours the animals that touched his soul. From Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins, \$25.99.

2 Hillary Rodham Clinton Presidential Playset, illustrated by Caitlin Kuhwald

Choose a facial expression and pantsuit from among the presidential candidate's greatest hits. From Quirk Books, \$14.95.

3 Little Miss and Mr. Me Me Me parody series by Dan Zevin, illustrated by Dylan Klymenko

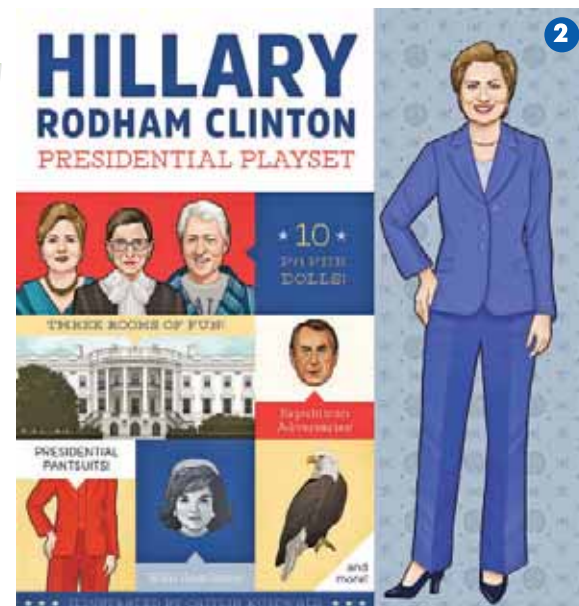
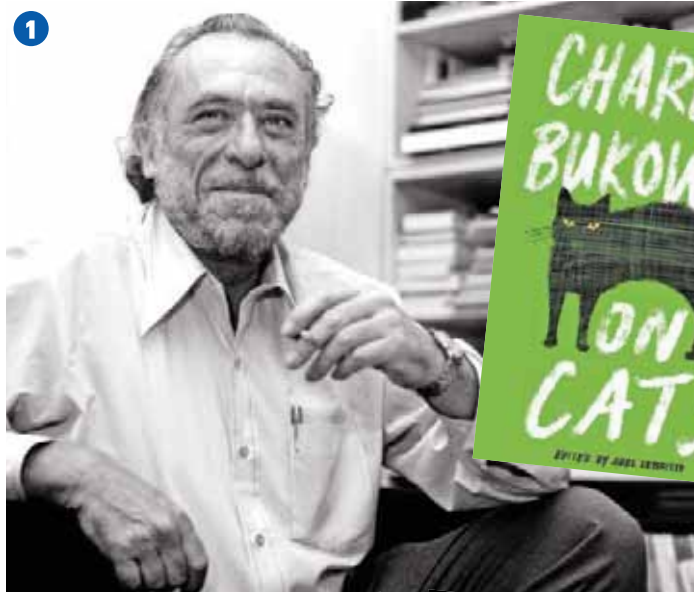
The iconic little children's books by Roger Hargreaves featuring the goofy Little Miss and Mr. Men characters have been teaching good behaviour for 45 years. Now there's this twisted parody series. From Three Rivers Press, \$6.99 each.

4 Findings: An Illustrated Collection by Rafil Kroll-Zaidi, illustrated by Graham Roumieu

From Harper's, this little volume is full of gems from the back-page column of the same name. Rude sales staff boost the desirability of luxury goods, for instance. Also, this: Service sizes in images of the Last Supper were found to have grown by two-thirds over the past millennium. From 12 Books, \$20.

5 The U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Marriage Equality: As delivered by Justice Anthony Kennedy

The complete decision clearing the way for same-sex marriage across the United States, in a hardcover edition from Melville House Publishing, \$14.95.



SUSAN MUSGRAVE

Writer's cookbook a testament to the island of Haida Gwaii

Canadian writer Susan Musgrave has published nearly 30 books, from poetry to children's fiction. The fact her latest is a cookbook is not as big a leap as it seems.

The award-winning author, who has been shortlisted for the Governor General's Award four times, runs the Copper Beech House bed and breakfast on the remote West Coast island Haida Gwaii. It is the place she's called home for decades. It is not only where she writes, but where she forages and cooks, doing everything from shucking scallops and

picking huckleberries, to serve to her guests and neighbours.

Her first cookbook, *A Taste of Haida Gwaii: Food Gathering and Feasting at the Edge of the World*, (Whitecap, \$34.95) is a mix of stories, recipes and food gathering tips.

Absent from much of the book is her husband, Stephen Reid, a convicted bank robber, recently out of prison on statutory release. After nearly 30 years of marriage, the couple is still going strong.

"Prison was the easy part,"

Musgrave jokes.

Musgrave and Reid are both accomplished in the kitchen in their own way. Reid used to use truffle oil on his guns, and he always won the "chili-offs" in prison. "He has the T-shirts to prove it," Musgrave says.

This project is about Musgrave's neighbours.

"I wanted to write about the people that live on Haida Gwaii and food. It's a testament to the people who live in the area that I live and the wealth of food that's there," says Musgrave.

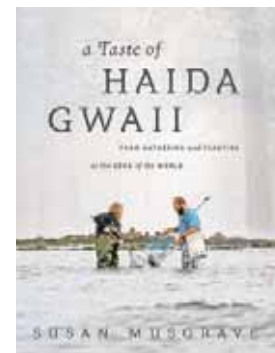
"We don't have access to the shops you have in Toronto. You can't go out and buy whatever you want, so we have to make it or invent it."

That's because Haida Gwaii is at "the edge of the world." A group of islands filled with lush moss-covered forests and lined with beaches, Haida Gwaii is a natural grocer. You can get ketchup and mayo in the stores there, but that's about it, she jokes. The area is primed for berry picking: see Musgrave's cloudberry jam or salmonberry

jelly recipes. She offers guests at the Copper Beech House bed and breakfast tips for mushrooming, too: see her venison stew with a Chanterelle garnish. There's also tips for ocean finds, such as how to best dry Porphyra, a type of coldwater seaweed.

Some of it even translates to urban areas. "If you have an unmowed lawn, a vacant lot or even just a sidewalk with weeds growing between the cracks, then you have something to start with," she writes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



BOOK EXCERPT THE SCANDIKITCHEN BY BRONTË AURELL

Meatballs never tasted so Swede



Real Swedish Meatballs

There are as many recipes for meatballs in Scandinavia as there are cooks.

Recipes vary regionally, too, both in ingredients and sizing.

Sadly, nowadays a lot of people buy meatballs instead of making them.

The homemade version is so very wholesome and worth the effort. Serve with creamy mashed potato.

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup old-fashioned oats or breadcrumbs
- 2/3 cup meat stock (chicken works well, too)
- 14 oz. ground beef
- 9 oz. ground pork (minimum 10% fat)
- 1 US large egg
- 2 1/2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- pinch of salt
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground white pepper
- a dash of Worcestershire sauce or soy sauce
- 1 small onion, grated
- butter and oil, for frying
- mashed potato, to serve

Stirred Lingonberries

- 9 oz. frozen lingonberries (available in some specialty food stores and online)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar

Cream Gravy

- meat stock
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- a good glug of single cream
- salt and ground black pepper

Serves 6

Directions:

1. If using oats, soak them in



the meat or chicken stock for 5 minutes.

2. Mix the ground meat with a good pinch of salt for a couple of minutes in a food processor to ensure it's blended thoroughly.

3. Add the eggs, flour, spices and Worcestershire or soy sauce to another bowl and mix with the soaked oats or breadcrumbs and grated onion, then add this to the meat mixture. You'll have a sticky, but moldable, mix-

ture. Leave the mixture to rest for 20-25 minutes before using.

4. Heat up a skillet with a small pat of butter or oil and shape one small meatball. Fry it until done and then

taste it. Adjust the seasoning according to taste and fry another meatball to test it until you get it just right.

5. Shape the individual meatballs in your hands — it helps if your hands are damp. Each meatball should be around 1 in. in diameter, or larger if you haven't got time.

6. Melt a pat of butter in a skillet with a dash of oil and carefully add a few meatballs — make sure there is plenty of room for you to swivel the pan round and help turn them so they get a uniform round shape and do not stick. You'll most likely need to do this in several batches. Cooking time is usually around 5 minutes per batch. Keep in a warm oven until needed.

7. When your meatballs are done, keep the pan on a medium heat. Ensure you have enough fat in there, if not, add a pat of butter to the pan. Add a tablespoon of flour and whisk, then add a splash of stock and whisk again as you bring to the boil. Keep adding stock until you have a good creamy gravy, then add a good dollop of light cream and season well with salt and pepper. The colour of the gravy should be very light brown.

8. To prepare the Stirred Lingonberries (rårörda lingon) simply add the granulated sugar and stir. Leave for a while and then stir again, until the sugar dissolves and the berries have defrosted. Store leftover Stirred Lingonberries in the fridge.

9. Serve with mashed potatoes.

EXCERPTED FROM THE SCANDI KITCHEN BY BRONTË AURELL. PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER CASSIDY, PUBLISHED BY RYLAND, PETERS & SMALL, \$30.95 CAD.

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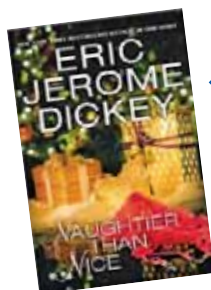
Quality family time is part of what makes the holiday season so special, but sometimes you just need to escape for a bit and get some quality alone time. Sneak away and curl up with one of these new holiday-themed books. You'll re-emerge ready to let the festivities carry on. All quick reads, they're also perfect to get lost in while you're travelling **EMILY LAURENCE/METRO IN NEW YORK**

Heart warmer 1

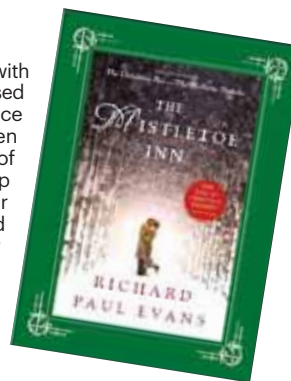
Three different storylines are woven together in this heart-warming story, which was just released in paperback. Set in Philadelphia, it takes place over one extraordinary night. Sarina is a teacher who just moved home, after getting divorced. She's on her way to a dinner party, nervous about seeing her high school crush. Madeline is a nine-year-old aspiring jazz musician with high hopes for Christmas Eve. Lorca owns a local jazz club, but is struggling to pay the rent. He'll need a Christmas miracle to keep it open. You'll enjoy seeing how everything plays out and it will remind you of life's small, everyday miracles.

**Love story 2**

The author of *The Christmas Box* is back with another enjoyable love story. Kimberly used to dream of becoming a famous romance novelist, but she's had her heart broken so many times that she's on the verge of giving up on love, let alone mustering up the energy to write about it. To get her inspiration back, she decides to spend Christmas at a writing retreat where her heart is opened in ways she never could have imagined.

**3 Steamy romance**

If you're looking for something extra steamy to keep you warm, reach for this enticing new romance novel and sequel to 2003's *Naughty or Nice*. It's about three adult sisters, all dealing with their own complicated romantic conundrums. Though their family is tight-knit, each hides her own dark secret, and as secrets often do, these ones won't stay hidden for long.

**4 Cat rescues man**

If you loved James Bowen's New York Times bestseller *A Street Cat Named Bob*, you'll love this inspiring story just as much. This book is about a time during the holidays when Bowen was a struggling street musician. The streets

were cold and Bowen didn't have anywhere to go or much to eat. When an abandoned cat, Bob, came into his life, it motivated him to keep living and not give up. The holidays can be a rough time, but hope comes in unexpected ways.



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Creating a world to disappear inside

NEW RELEASES

Bestselling author Kate Morton writes to please herself

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



In her heart, Kate Morton has always viewed herself as a mystery writer. Together, the Australian author's five books have sold more than 10 million copies worldwide, placing her on the blockbuster podium alongside thriller writers such as Paula Hawkins and Gillian Flynn. But Morton's Gothic, romantic settings and historical time periods have made her books tough to classify — not that it matters to her multitude of fans.

"I don't think I'm officially part of the mystery-writing community in terms of how publishers see me or how booksellers position me," Morton says.

"My books contain history, but aren't really historical fiction. They contain mystery but

they contain characters' stories, too. And they don't necessarily have that fast pace. But all my books start — along with character and setting — with a mystery."

That attitude might change with her latest novel. The Lake House contains all the signature elements of a Morton story: a crumbling British manor, dual timelines linking past and present, and a female protagonist burdened with family secrets. But the story twists and weaves up until the very last pages, as it connects Sadie Sparrow, a detective who becomes obsessed with a case involving an abandoned child and her missing mother, with Alice Edvane, an elderly crime novelist who is harbouring information surrounding the unsolved disappearance of her infant brother, decades earlier.

"I wanted to make a much more explicit attempt at writing a mystery story," says Morton. "I wanted to have fun with this and make one of my characters one of those real grande dames of the mystery-writing world."

Morton's love of mystery started as a kid. Weaned on Enid Blyton's classic Famous Five series, she later became fas-



cinated with the literary Gothic, studying tragedy in Victorian literature as her Master's thesis at University of Queensland. She was drawn to books by the Brontë Sisters in which "secrets and mysteries from the past can't be repressed and they come back to haunt those characters in the present."

Even The Lake House's setting is a nod to classic BritLit: the isolated region of Cornwall and its dramatic moors and cliffs served as the background for some of Daphne du Maurier's most famous stories. Morton says, "I wanted somewhere

where it seemed possible that an abandoned house could be consumed by nature."

Before the publication of Morton's first published novel in 2006, The House at Riverton — about a servant who keeps a society family's secret hidden for decades — she had shopped around two manuscripts with no luck. As a new mom, she had made peace with the fact that writing might just be a hobby. "That's why that book doesn't subscribe to any genre in particular. It was really written to my own taste," Morton says.

"In retrospect, it's not surprising that's the one people responded to because it's really heartfelt and genuine."

Regardless of where her novels are slotted or what genre is considered in vogue, Morton says she'll continue to write what interests and pleases her the most.

"I try to create a world that I can disappear inside," she says, "and I have to trust that means that readers will want to disappear into that world as well."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



Australian author Kate Morton's five books have sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. DAVIN PATTERSON

BOOK BRIEF

Girls Who Code launching 'Baby-Sitters Club' for coding

Girls Who Code is teaming with Viking Children's Books on a line of at least 11 planned works about computer science and coding.

In a joint announcement Wednesday, the tech organization and Viking said the up-

coming books would include middle grade fiction, doodles and board books. The initial releases, coming in the summer of 2017, will be Girls Who Code: Tips, Tricks, and Inspiration for Taking Over Tech and the start of a fictional series billed as The Baby-Sitters Club meets coding.

Girls Who Code, founded in 2012 by Reshma Saujani, is a non-profit with a mission "to close the gender gap in the technology and engineering sectors." Saujani is an activist and former deputy public advocate in New York City.

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POLICE DRAMA

New Criminal Minds spinoff announced

CBS has announced that it will premiere *Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders* on March 2 next year. This new series will be bolstered by the fact that it will be screened in the time slot immediately after the original *Criminal Minds*.

Having created successful franchises from *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* (now cancelled) and *NCIS*, CBS has moved on to *Criminal Minds*, a series that is currently in its 11th season in the U.S. To lead this new spin-off, the most watched network in the country set its sights on the former boss of *CSI: New York*, Gary Sinise.

The actor came to prominence in the 1990s with his role in *Forrest Gump*. His character in this new series, Jack Garrett, will lead a team of profilers for the FBI. His division will consist of agents enlisted to help American citizens in trouble abroad. The former Lieutenant Dan Taylor will work with a team that includes Tyler James Williams (*Everybody Hates Chris*), Daniel Henney (*Hawaii 5-0*), Alana De la Garza (*CSI: Miami*) and Annie Funke (*The Intern*).



Actor Gary Sinise. HANDOUT

Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders is not the first spin-off from the *Criminal Minds* series. CBS tried a similar project in 2011, encouraged by the success of the many spin-offs of *NCIS* and *CSI*. But *Criminal Minds: Suspect Behavior* did not encounter the success that was hoped for, despite featuring Forest Whitaker.

AFP

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

The right kind of crazy

CRAZY EX GIRLFRIEND, SEASON 2, EPISODE 3 (GLOBAL), THE SCISSOR SONG

Rebecca (Rachel Bloom), a love-starved lawyer who's relocated to sterile West Covina, CA — the home of her ex-boyfriend — confesses to her new pal Paula (Donna Lynne Champlin) that she's afraid to throw a party. The lights dim. Paula begins singing what sounds like a typical empowerment ballad: "Face your fears/Stare them down/ Don't be scared/Stand your ground." A few bars in, however, the lyrics take a turn: "If you're in a burning building/And smoke is everywhere/Keep calm, take a deep breath/And stay right there!" Rebecca protests ("Really?"), but Paula, with enough self-seriousness to make Celine Dion blush, takes no notice. As a chorus of children runs in with scissors, she keeps belting: "You can fly, fly out of a window, fly out of a building, just believe in yourself!"

Injecting new life into old genres is tough in our post-reality-show era. Several series



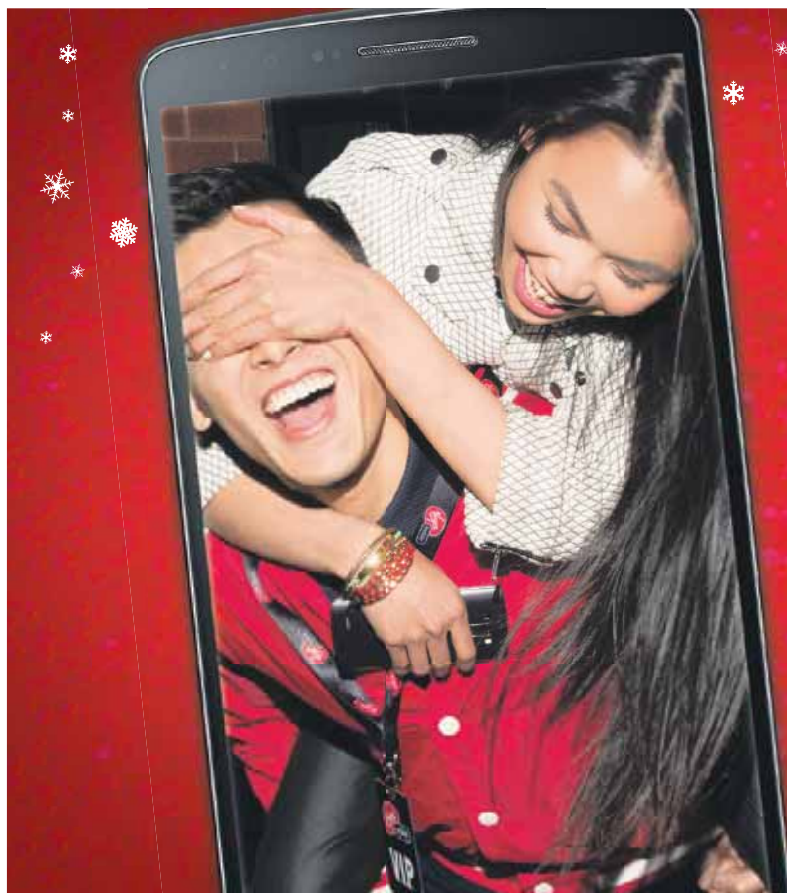
Crazy Ex Girlfriend is a musical rom-com that laughs at itself. HANDOUT

are trying to do it with irony — ironic telenovela (*Jane the Virgin*), ironic slasher-horror (*Scream Queens*, starring slasher legend Jamie Lee Curtis). I admit, my heart sank at the prospect of this, an ironic romantic-comedy-musical. But its creators, Bloom and Aline

Brosh McKenna (screenwriter of *The Devil Wears Prada*), won me over. Their writing has wit; they've hired actors with Broadway chops; and they've hate-lovingly studied pop culture tropes (check out the "Sexy Getting Ready Song" in episode one). So *Crazy Ex Girlfriend* suc-

ceeds as both you-go-girl story and the ultimate send-up of you-go-girl stories. It lets us mock our cupcakes and eat them, too.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



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Murray gets merry in Netflix special

HOLIDAY VIEWING

Writer Mitch Glazer hopes show becomes an annual gig

Bill Murray doesn't do schmaltz.

But the Scrooged star does love the holidays, says screenwriter Mitch Glazer, who teamed up with his longtime pal for the Netflix-produced *A Very Murray Christmas*.

Consider the star-studded special a heartfelt ode to the season, delivered with the charismatic swagger of Murray's *Saturday Night Live* alter-ego Nick the Lounge Singer — without the cheese.

"He's just never going to let something be false sentimental," Glazer says in a recent phone call from Los Angeles.

"He has huge heart and he comes from a family of nine and he's got six sons of his own, so Christmas is real to him in a non-commercial, non-sentimental way."

Glazer says *A Very Murray Christmas* is the result of years of spitballing ideas for some

kind of TV musical special.

It came together when he and Murray settled on a Christmas theme and their director pal Sofia Coppola suggested a piano bar scene at New York's sumptuous Carlyle hotel.

Glazer was tasked with crafting the story: Murray is helming a live TV variety show but a massive snowstorm prevents any of the guests from arriving.

The trio came up with a festive musical set list and mused on their dream cast. Murray pulled out his phone and started calling in the cameos.

"The first two people that Bill called on his cellphone were George Clooney and Chris Rock and literally just before he gets a sentence deep into it ... both of them were like, 'We're in. We're coming.' They just wanted to be a part of it," says Glazer.

Other friends soon joined the party, including Murray's SNL pal Paul Shaffer, his *Scrooged* co-star (and New York Dolls frontman) David Johansen, Coppola's cousin Jason Schwartzman, *Arrested Development* co-star Michael Cera, former SNL comic Maya Rudolph, Parks and Recreation alums Amy Poehler



Bill Murray as himself, in a scene from Netflix's original holiday special *A Very Murray Christmas*, directed by Sofia Coppola. ALI GOLDSTEIN/NETFLIX VIA AP

and Rashida Jones, and Coppola's husband Thomas Mars and his band Phoenix.

Almost all put their vocal chops on display, including Clooney, who provides rous-

ing backup on Albert King's funk classic *Santa Claus Wants Some Lovin'*.

"Not only is he singing but he's doing a style of rhythm-and-blues singing that was

popular and big in the '70s as sung by Earth Wind & Fire," Shaffer notes of the Gravity star, who appeared with Murray in *The Monuments Men*.

"I remember being in the

house band of *Saturday Night Live* and trying to sing like that and there he is doing it. I don't know where he pulled that out of, though. But he came up with that that day."

Clooney, of course, showed up in a tux "and looked beautiful," recalls Glazer.

"I don't think he considers himself a great vocalist but he's got a lot of style," he chuckles.

There were other surprises, some of them oddly similar to the made-up premise of the fake holiday special.

Just as shooting took place the first week in March, two blizzards hit New York, dumping "snow halfway up the building" and helping to establish the mood on set, says Glazer.

The screenwriter says he would love to do it all again next year, and maybe again the year after that.

"Personally, Bill and I have talked about it and Sofia, we had such a good time doing it," he says. "Andy Williams and Dean Martin did them every year. It was good fun. I would love to do another."

A Very Murray Christmas debuts Friday on Netflix.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Iggy responds to Badu diss

Iggy Azalea is no stranger to social media fiascos, which may be why her Twitter followers haven't heard from the rapper since Nov. 1. But being a trending topic can have an effect, as Azalea made an

online comeback this week to respond to Erykah Badu's mocking of her at the Soul Train Awards that went viral.

"We are days from 2016, but I came online today and saw it's still cool to try and discredit my 2014 accomplishments," Azalea tweeted. "F—ing hell. Seems exhausting. Anyway, I've been enjoying the holiday season and I hope you all have, too." NED EHRBAR/METRO

Court to decide if Gollum a bad guy

A Turkish court overseeing the case of a doctor accused of insulting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ruled that a committee of experts should assess whether the fictional Lord of the Rings character Gollum is good or bad.

Bilgin Ciftci faces up to two years in prison for allegedly insulting a state official by



juxtaposing pictures (above) of Gollum and Erdogan on social media.

Lawyer Hicran Danisman told the AP Wednesday that she was forced to argue in

court this week that "Gollum is not a bad character" because she got "nowhere" with a defence case based on freedom of expression. Danisman said that prompted the judge to rule that a committee, including psych-

ologists and movie experts, should provide an assessment of Gollum's character. Trial was adjourned until Feb. 23. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ADOPTION

Bullock shows off new baby in People exclusive

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



So remember in late October when a reporter congratulated Sandra Bullock on adopting a little girl and Bullock insisted the story was totally untrue? Yeah, not so much.

"If I had a second adopted child, everyone would be hearing about it," she said. And well, everyone's hearing about it now. It turns out she was just waiting for the exclusive deal she'd given People magazine to announce the news.

"When I look at Laila, there's no doubt in my mind that she was supposed to be here," Bullock says of her new daughter, whom she's now willing to admit she's adopted. "I can tell you absolutely, the exact right children came to me at the exact right time." Laila joins her first adopted child,

Louis, who is apparently already all about the whole being a big brother thing.

"Louis spearheaded this whole journey," she says. And that's a lot of responsibility for a five-year-old. While I'm thrilled for Bullock and her family, I do wonder how long it will take for me to be able to trust her again.

Zuckerberg's \$45 billion philanthropic bid stuns

CHARITY

Facebook CEO commits 99 per cent of stockholdings

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is shaking up yet another sector — the charity world — with his surprise announcement that he and his wife will devote the bulk of their wealth, or about \$45 billion, to philanthropic works.

The move will eventually put him and his wife, Priscilla Chan, in the same philanthropic echelon as Bill and Melinda Gates. It also involves a new type of philanthropic structure that differs from traditional foundations, although details remain scarce.

Zuckerberg made his pledge on Facebook in celebration of his daughter Max's birth.

The Zuckerbergs said Tuesday they will, over time, commit 99 per cent

of their Facebook stockholdings to such causes as fighting disease, improving education and "building strong communities." The couple had previously pledged to give away at least half their assets during their lifetime, but hadn't provided specifics.

The announcement stunned the charity world. The new organization, called the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, will pursue its initiatives through a combination of charitable donations, private investment and promotion of government-policy reform.

By comparison, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has an endowment of just over \$41 billion, which includes wealth donated by the Microsoft founder and his friend, the businessman Warren Buffett.

The new initiative will be organized as a limited liability company, however, rather than as a non-profit foundation. "They want the most flexibility and they are going to use a wide variety



Zuckerberg and Chan with daughter Max. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

of activities to achieve their mission," Rachael Horwitz, a Facebook spokeswoman, said via email. "So in that way this is not a foundation nor is it entirely

charitable."

The notion of investing money in companies that tackle social issues isn't new, but it has gained more currency among a younger generation of philanthropists, particularly in the tech world.

In the letter to their daughter, Zuckerberg and Chan described their goals as "advancing human potential and promoting equality." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cities on the rise



The Claridge Icon condominiums will be one of the tallest residential buildings in Ottawa at 485 feet high. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

CONDO TRENDS

Tall condos are transforming skylines across the country

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada



Skyscraper condominiums are the norm in major urban centres across the globe. Many Canadian cities are experiencing an urban renaissance with high-density, highrise communities in the central downtown cores. This week, Metro takes a look at Canada's tallest condos.

A bold Icon

In the nation's capital, things are moving skyward. The Claridge Icon condominiums will reach 485 feet high with 45 storeys and 320 suites, making it one of the tallest residential buildings in the city. Icon is located at the intersection of Carling and Preston, near Centretown.

The bold, geometric edifice is designed by renowned Canadian architects Hariri

Pontarini. At street level, the light-filled podium displays a subtle offset design, with cantilevered sections giving the illusion of shifting and expanding.

'Urban renewal'

In the west, Winnipeg is also on the way up. SkyCity Centre will be a mixed-use tower in the heart of downtown Winnipeg. Rising 45 storeys high, it is projected to be the tallest tower between Toronto and Calgary, with 388 residential units, 60,000 sq. ft. of office space and 20,000 sq. ft. of retail.

In September, Fortress Real Developments opened the doors to a million-dollar presentation centre for the SkyCity condominium suites. "Winnipeg's downtown is a heritage gold mine, but the addition of modern residential apartments of all sizes is needed to fill in the gaps," according to Ben Myers, senior vice-president of market research at Fortress.

"I would say Winnipeg is in the second inning of their urban renewal, and success at SkyCity will really be a catalyst for getting people excited about living downtown again," says Myers.



The 45-storey SkyCity Centre in Winnipeg will have nearly 400 residential units as well as office and retail space.

+ ACROSS CANADA

Halifax

Fenwick Tower by Templeton Properties is a residential apartment building in the heart of south-end Halifax, between Fenwick and South streets. It's the city's tallest building at 33 storeys and 275 units, and the tallest residential building east of Montreal.



Fenwick Tower in Halifax.

Toronto

Canderel Residential just released their new penthouse suites high above Yonge Street in downtown Toronto. "While Aura at College Park is Canada's tallest condominium, it was also regarded as one of the country's fastest-selling condominium launches," says Riz Dhanji, Canderel's VP of sales and marketing.

Calgary

3 Eau Claire is an urban condo development located at 3 Avenue Southwest, steps from the Bow River Pathway, Prince's Island Park and the downtown core. At 48 storeys it will be one of the tallest condos in Calgary.

Edmonton

The Pearl is a 36-storey condominium tower currently under construction in the Oliver neighbourhood of Edmonton. The building promises to augment the city skyline with curved glass walls, a signature lobby and a wellness centre.

Vancouver

The Melville is a highrise residential tower located at 1189 Melville St., in the Coal Harbour neighbourhood. At 122 metres, it's the sixth tallest building in the city, and the tallest fully residential building in western Canada.

Taking the LEED in Scarborough

Project overview

City Core's LEED-certified residential condominium community, Harmony Village Sheppard, will offer a universal design and community-focused lifestyle. The building features sustainable green features like geothermal and solar heating and cooling technologies.

Building amenities

The project features more than 35,000 sq. ft. of amenity space, with lifestyle and fitness options including a full-sized swimming pool, state-of-the-art fitness facility, yoga studio, hot tubs, and change rooms with steam showers.

Location and transit

The community will have street-level front access to the proposed LRT and there's TTC bus service in all directions. Drivers will have quick access to the Don Valley Parkway and Highways 404 and 401.

In the neighbourhood

Residents will enjoy access to a 100-seat banquet facility, a restaurant, tea room and cappuccino bar. More than 100 amenities and services will be offered on-site. Harmony Village is surrounded by parks and the Tam O'Shanter Golf Club.

HARMONY VILLAGE SHEPPARD



CONTRIBUTED

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Harmony Village Sheppard
Builder: City Core Developments
Architect: Page + Steele IBI Group Architects
Interiors: Page + Steele IBI Group Architects
Location: 3260 Sheppard Ave. E. at Warden

Building: A 30-storey tower with 291 units
Sizes: From 388 to 1,800 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting at \$181,500
Suites: From studios up to three-bedrooms
Status: Now selling, under construction

Occupancy: Spring 2018
Sales centre: 3260 Sheppard Ave. E.
Hours: Monday to Thursday 12 to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 416-493-0123
Website: harmonyvillage.ca
Email: sheppard@harmonyvillage.ca

LEGAL MATTERS

Investment condo paid up front — or so they thought

Jeffrey Cowan
 For Metro Canada



Q: We purchased a new condo a number of years ago and we have taken possession — but not ownership — of the property a few months ago. In conjunction with our financial adviser and our lawyer we decided to pay the amount owing to the builder when we took interim possession, instead of carrying the cost of a large sum owing for the

next few months — all good. We have now been informed that our investment condo is ready for final closing, which means we take title to the property and we can do whatever we like with the condo. Our lawyer has emailed us and told us we still owe close to \$35,000 dollars on final closing. I thought we had paid all of this and now we have additional costs. What gives?

A: On final closing of a pre-build condo there are three

outstanding items that still need to be paid. If you are not eligible for the HST rebate (discussed in other columns) you will have to pay that as well as the land transfer tax and any adjustments (additional builder costs) on closing.

It is quite conceivable that although you thought you were avoiding carrying the costs of a big amount owing to the builder there are still a bunch of final costs that you need to pay.

The costs of investing in property as an investment.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Survey reveals what's on new homeowners' wish lists

Bryan Tuckey

For Metro Canada



Toronto's new homeowners want energy-efficient features, storage space and a multi-functional kitchen space, according to a new survey that looked at what today's buyers want.

The survey, conducted by BILD member Avid Ratings Canada and the Canadian Home Builders' Association, recently asked 12,384 new homeowners across six provinces about buying a new home and their features and design preferences.

In addition to the in-home features, the new homeowners in Toronto who live in low-rise homes rank parks and recreation centres, landscaping and walking or cycling paths as the most preferred building and community amenities. Those in the mid- and highrise homes rank 24-hour security, a gym and wireless Internet throughout the building as top preferences.

The home building industry has to understand what homeowners want in a new

home, so that they can build it. Builders and developers do extensive research before launching a new project and it often means the difference between offering more townhomes or one-bedroom suites, and buildings that feature a concierge or a pet spa.

30%

The percentage of respondents who said they would sacrifice size to improve affordability.

Today's new home purchasers are mainly growing families with kids. More than half of the survey respondents are Generation Xers and another 26 per cent are millennials. This tells us who is out shopping for a new home and that most are out there looking for family-sized accommodations and entry-level starter homes.

Depending on the area, the type of home, the buyer and their age, homebuyer preferences can vary. A new homebuyer's budget also plays into their decision-making process

— especially since in the GTA, the average price for a new low-rise home like a detached, semi-detached or townhouse is more than \$802,000, and the average price for a new highrise condominium is more than \$440,000.

The Avid and CHBA survey asked new homeowners what they would be willing to sacrifice to lower the price of a home and 30 per cent said they would sacrifice size to improve affordability. Another 20 per cent said they would accept fewer community features and 18 per cent said they would choose a location further from work and amenities.

The industry continues to innovate and provide a range of housing choices that deliver the features and amenities that consumers want and that they can afford.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILD-BLOGS.CA.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market



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1 LIBERTY VILLAGE

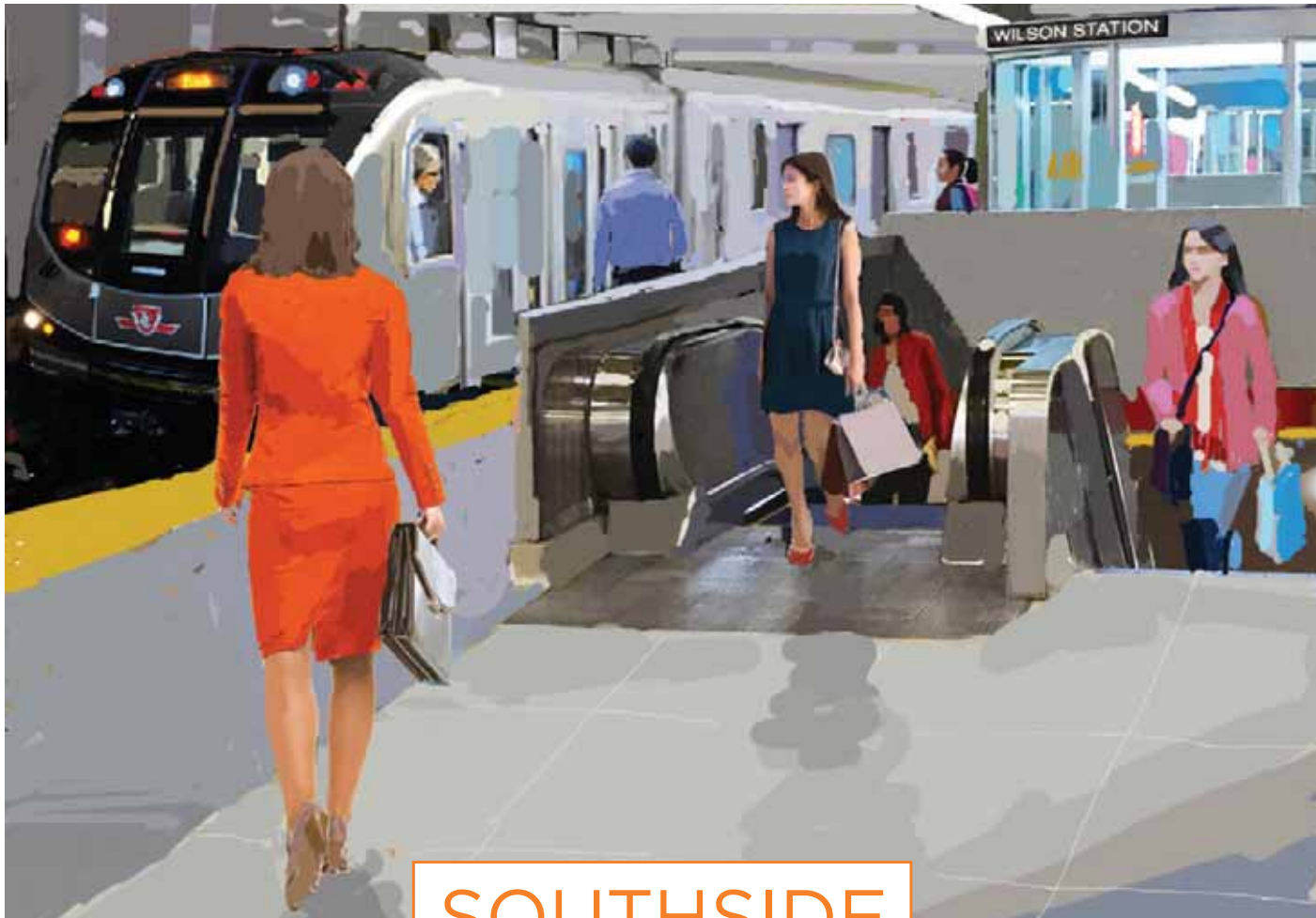
Grand opening: Cabin Condos by Curated Properties. Check out the presentation centre at 45 Dovercourt Rd., on Dec. 5 from 12 to 5 p.m. CONTACT: 416-900-5574, CABINTORONTO.COM

2 ETOBICOKE

Open house: A spacious and well-maintained one-bedroom-plus-den in Tridel's Essex 2 will be shown this weekend. Head over to 5233 Dundas St. W., on Dec. 5 and 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. CONTACT: CHRISTINE MERRITT, 416-366-8800

3 NORTH YORK

Now previewing: The Scala condominiums in the centre of the Bayview Village community. Visit the presentation centre at 4800 Dufferin St. CONTACT: 416-730-0300, TRIDEL.COM



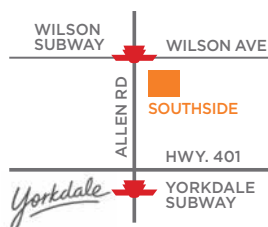
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Give some kitchen cheer this holiday

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Gifts sure to please the chef or host(ess) in your life

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada



Know someone with a new kitchen (or someone who loves spending time there)? Look for gifts that suit how they use their

kitchen, from the constant entertainer to the serious cook.

The two big kitchen colours for 2016 are copper and red so add a little style to someone's kitchen this Christmas with the gifts you give. Spend a lot or spend a little; but these pairings belong together.

For the chef

1 KitchenAid Tri-Ply Copper Stainless Steel 10-Piece Set

Give the conductivity of copper, heating efficiency of aluminum and the durability of stainless steel. \$1,100, now \$550. TheBay.com

GREAT ADD-ON GIFT: 2 Silicone Oven Mitt with Cotton Liner

The heat resistance of silicone with the comfort of cotton inside. \$11, Walmart.ca

3 KitchenAid Ceramic 2.8-Quart Red Casserole

Commercial-quality ceramic resists staining, chipping and crazing. \$70. TheBay.com

GREAT ADD-ON GIFT: 4 Volcano Stove Heavy-Duty Trivet

Keep the counters and table protected. \$18, Walmart.ca



For the entertainer

5 Torrent Magnetic Drive Blender, Candy Apple Red

Give 18,000 rpms powered by a super-magnetic drive force. \$600, CanadianTire.ca

GREAT ADD-ON GIFT: 6 Baileys Vanilla Cinnamon Original Irish Cream Liqueur

The newest (and most talked about) cream liqueur flavour of the year. \$30, Baileys.com

7 Copper Steel Coffee Press with Walnut Handle

Hand-crafted coffee never brewed so chic. \$58, Starbucks.ca

GREAT ADD-ON GIFT: 8 Starbucks Christmas Blend Vintage 2015 Whole Bean

Just for the holidays — get it while you can. \$20/1 lb, Starbucks.ca



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Giovinco scores MVP award

Atomic Ant adds to his list of honours in first season

Five goals came from free kicks and three from penalties. Twelve were scored from inside the penalty box with 10 from outside. Eighteen came from his right foot and four from his left.

Newly crowned MVP Sebastian Giovinco treated Major League Soccer as his personal palette this season, conjuring up gorgeous goals from all angles.

There were audacious chips that wrong-footed goalies while seeming to defy physics. Swerving runs that left defenders tied in knots. And power shots that nobody could stop.

"One for the ages," MLS executive vice-president Todd Durbin said Wednesday in awarding the Toronto FC star the Landon Donovan Most Valuable Player Award.

Giovinco, styling a black patterned suit, received the trophy on the Air Canada Centre floor, with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment's top sponsors and marketing partners looking on.

"I am very, very happy for this award. And I would like to win more," Giovinco said in a rare attempt at English.

His partner Sharj and two-year-old son Jacopo looked on from the front row, with Jacopo stealing the show later during a photo-op.

Giovinco won by a landslide, receiving 87.27 per cent of votes from MLS clubs, 94.37 per cent of media votes and 77.33 of player votes for a weighted total of 258.97. Columbus Crew SC striker Kei Kamara was an extremely distant second at 13.06 and midfielder Benny Feilhaber of Sporting Kansas City third at 4.95.

The league, which has only made the voting totals public in recent years, said the winning margin was one of its highest.

The 28-year-old Italian international known as the Atomic Ant has virtually run the table in his first year in North America. He won the Golden Boot as top scorer, was named top newcomer and voted onto the league's Best XI.

On Thursday he can add goal of the year honours if he bests Krisztian Nemeth of Sporting Kansas City in the fan vote.

Directly involved in two-thirds of Toronto's 58 goals this season, he also helped TFC make the playoffs for the first time.

Giovinco tied Kamara with 22 goals and led the league in assists (16), shots (181) and

shots on goal (73).

Opponents who couldn't stop him legally fouled him.

Giovinco, deceptively strong for five-foot-four and 135 pounds, was fouled a league-high 90 times. Still he only missed one game, due to an adductor injury.

World soccer has taken notice of the former Juventus player.

FourFourTwo, a British soccer magazine, ranks Giovinco No. 94 in its world 100. That's one spot below French teenager Anthony Martial, whose transfer fee reportedly could cost Manchester United as much as 58 million pounds (\$115 million).

Toronto FC general

manager Tim Bezbatchenko essentially confirmed Barcelona's interest in his prized possession.

“

He exploded and the locker room felt it. Some of the chairs and various things felt it. He's passionate about winning.

TFC head coach Greg Vanney

something comes in, we will politely decline.”

THE CANADIAN PRESS

22

Regular-season goals by Sebastian Giovinco in his first season of MLS, tied with Kei Kamara for tops in 2015

16

Assists by Giovinco in the regular season, most in the league by one over fellow MVP finalist Benny Feilhaber

38

Points by the Atomic Ant, an MLS record, earning the coveted Golden Boot.

2

MLS player of the month honours for Giovinco in a season that also included newcomer of the year honours for his efforts.

10

Times Giovinco was named to the MLS team of the week. He was player of the week league-wide three times in 2015.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Sebastian Giovinco
NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jonathan Bernier has a record of 0-8-1 this season.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

MAPLE LEAFS

Bernier headed down to the farm

The Toronto Maple Leafs are sending goaltender Jonathan Bernier on a minor-league conditioning stint.

Coach Mike Babcock said Wednesday that Bernier would go to the American Hockey League's Toronto Marlies for 10 days once starter James Reimer is healthy.

Bernier is 0-8-1 with a 3.28 goals-against average and .888 save percentage this season.

His struggles got so bad that the Leafs called up Garret Sparks



Anything in life, if you quit then you're never going to get it. I'm just going to stick with it. Jonathan Bernier

to make his NHL debut Monday.

Sparks stopped all 24 shots he faced in a 3-0 win over Edmonton and earned the opportunity to start again Wednesday night at the Winnipeg Jets.

Bernier could play in four

of the Marlies' next six games, beginning either Friday night in Rochester or this weekend at home against the Manitoba Moose.

While in the AHL, Bernier will continue to receive his NHL

salary and count against Toronto's salary cap.

Under the terms of the collective bargaining agreement, a team can send a player on a conditioning stint of up to 14 consecutive days with that player's approval.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Maple Leafs game against the Jets on Wednesday night.

FIGURE SKATING

Chan cool amid news of Hanyu's record

Patrick Chan woke up last Saturday morning to see Twitter abuzz about Yuzuru Hanyu.

His Japanese rival had just rewritten the record book at the NHK Trophy Grand Prix, setting new world marks for the short program, long program, and overall score.

Chan and Hanyu meet next week at the Grand Prix Final in Barcelona, in perhaps one

of the strongest men's figure skating fields ever assembled.

Chan said there's been talk about what he'll do respond to Hanyu. What will he change?

His answer: not a thing.

"I'm not going to panic, I'm not going to add anything at the immediate moment," Chan said. "I'm not at a point in my career where I feel I need to prove to people that I have a lot more in my arsenal."

The 24-year-old from Toronto is making a comeback after taking a season off, walking away from the competitive arena after Hanyu beat him for gold at the 2014 Sochi Olympics. Chan roared back to beat Hanyu at Skate Canada International in October.

Then came Hanyu's eye-popping programs last weekend.

He scored 216.07 in his free

skate, surpassing Chan's world record of 196.75 set in 2013.

His overall score of 322.40 also erased Chan's previous world record of 295.27. Speaking Wednesday on a conference call, Chan said he's somewhat relieved. He's seen Hanyu at his best, now he has a clear target to shoot for.

"Now that it's in front of our eyes, everyone's eyes, it's less of a mystery," Chan said.

"So for me, it kind of calms me down, and makes me realize: Alright, that's something tangible that I can reach for, that's my goal is to aim for that score or beyond it."

Canada is the defending Grand Prix Final champion in pairs and ice dance. World pairs champions Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford, and ice dancers Kaitlyn Weaver and

Andrew Poje will defend their titles in Spain. Canada's young pairs team of Julianne Seguin and Charlie Bilodeau also qualified for the final. THE CANADIAN PRESS

216.07

Yuzuru Hanyu's record score in the free skate at the NHK Trophy Grand Prix.

Toronto's Patrick Chan says Hanyu's feat has given him something to aim for.

GETTY IMAGES

Cornish calls time on illustrious career

CFL

Stamps legend racked up two Grey Cup wins, 3 rushing titles

Calgary Stampeders running back Jon Cornish announced his retirement Wednesday after nine CFL seasons, three rushing titles and two Grey Cup rings.

The 31-year-old from New Westminster, B.C., was the CFL's leading rusher and top Canadian from 2012 to 2014. But he was limited to just nine games in each of the last two seasons due to injuries.

"I'm very comfortable with my decision," said Cornish. "Over the years with this team, I feel we've been able to achieve everything that is possible to achieve both as a team and as an individual."

Cornish broke Normie Kwong's 56-year-old single-season rushing record for a Canadian with 1,457 yards in 2012.

Cornish broke his own record the following year with 1,813 rushing yards and was named the CFL's most outstanding player. That season he became the first CFL player to win the Lou Marsh Trophy, awarded by The Toronto Star to Canada's top athlete, since Russ Jackson in 1969.

"Jon was an exceptional player for this franchise and I congratulate him on an excellent career," said Stampeders general manager John Hufnagel, who was head coach for eight of Cornish's nine



The Calgary Stampeders' Jon Cornish announces his retirement from CFL play at a press conference in Calgary, Alta. on Wednesday. The running back had a well-decorated career.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

“Over the years with this team, I feel we’ve been able to achieve everything that is possible to achieve both as a team and as an individual. Jon Cornish

seasons in Calgary.

"He earned his dues early in his career with hard work and commitment on special teams while gradually earning more playing time on offence. After he became the starter, he developed into one of the best running backs in the history of

this franchise and this league."

Cornish made just nine starts in 2014 but still led the league in rushing with 1,082 yards.

The Stampeders went on to win the 2014 Grey Cup 20-16 over Hamilton, though the Tiger-Cats held Cornish to 25

yards on nine carries.

The three-time all-star spent his entire CFL career with the Stampeders. Despite making just 60 career starts, Cornish finished his career as the fourth-leading rusher in Stampeders history with 6,844 yards.

"My appreciation to the league, the Calgary Stampeders, to the media and to the fans can not be overstated," said Cornish. "I've been humbled by the magnitude of what this sport means to people in this country." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tedford's exit puts Buono back at Lions' helm

The last time Wally Buono served as both head coach and general manager of the B.C. Lions, he guided the team to a Grey Cup victory.

He'll return to the dual role next season as he tries to get the CFL club back to the championship game for the first time since that 2011 title. Buono, who has spent 13 years as GM of the Lions, will be back on the sidelines in 2016 as a replacement for Jeff Tedford, who resigned Wednesday after one season as head coach.

"I'd be lying to you if I said I wasn't a little scared," Buono said. "But I'd also be lying to you if I said

I wasn't a little excited."

The Lions settled for a third-place finish in the West Division last season with a 7-11 record. B.C. was eliminated in the first round of the playoffs after a 35-9 loss to the Calgary Stampeders.

"After much consideration, I have elected to exercise an option in my contract and will resign as head coach of the B.C. Lions in order to pursue other opportunities in college football," Tedford said in a statement. "I want to thank Lions ownership, management, coaching staff and players and in particular Lions fans for the



Wally Buono THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jeff Tedford THE CANADIAN PRESS

opportunity and privilege of serving as head coach this past year."

Buono, who also serves as vice-president of football operations, held a news conference later in the day at the team's practice facility. "My job is to do what I do best and build an organization and build win-

ning football teams," he said. Buono has spent 13 seasons as GM of the team and has 22 years of coaching experience with B.C. and Calgary. The four-time coach of the year has won five Grey Cups as a coach and owns a regular-season coaching record of 254-154-3.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB IN BRIEF

Blue Jays sign first baseman Smoak to one-year deal

Justin Smoak signed a one-year deal with the Toronto Blue Jays worth US\$3.9 million on Wednesday, avoiding arbitration.

Smoak, 29, appeared in 132 games for Toronto last season batting .236 with 18 home runs, reaching a career high in RBIs (59). He was credited with four defensive runs saved, ranking second to only Mark Teixeira of the New York Yankees at first base. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slugger Trumbo heads for Camden Yards

The Orioles have acquired outfielder/first baseman Mark Trumbo and left-hander C.J. Riefenhauser from the Seattle Mariners for catcher Steve Clevenger.

The 29-year-old Trumbo hit .262 with 22 homers and 64 RBIs in 142 games this year with Arizona and the Mariners. Clevenger batted .287 in 30 games with the Orioles in 2015. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5

Number of Grey Cups Wally Buono has won as a coach.

NBA

Wayward Okafor banned by 76ers

The Philadelphia 76ers said Wednesday night they are immediately suspending centre Jahlil Okafor for two games, expressing disappointment for recent behaviour including a fight outside a Boston nightclub and reckless driving.

Sixers officials said in a statement before the team's game against the Knicks in New York that they will provide support to help him succeed on and off the court. "We have faith in him as a valued member of the Sixers," the statement said.

The suspension comes the same day a second video surfaced showing Okafor fighting in Boston, prompting local police to urge anyone who was assaulted to come forward.

The 19-year-old rookie has said he is embarrassed by his behaviour. He said the fight happened when he was responding to heckling by fans. Okafor was also cited on Oct. 19 for reckless driving on the Ben Franklin Bridge, which connects Philadelphia with New Jersey.

Sixers coach Brett Brown said Tuesday night that Okafor will likely soon be accompanied by team security on public outings. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Raptors game against the Hawks on Wednesday night

Hockey Canada welcomes Walman despite his snub

WORLD JUNIORS

St. Louis Blues prospect holds dual citizenship

Jake Walman grew up playing in the Greater Toronto Hockey League like a lot of Canadian kids. But he's not just a Canadian hockey player.

Because Walman's mother, Mari Anne, is American, the young defenceman is a dual citizen with Canadian and U.S. passports. While he played for

"We liked him in the summer and we still like him," Hockey Canada vice-president of hockey operations and national teams Scott Salmond said.

"We think he's going to have a real good chance to make our team and make us better if he does. To me he's Canadian. At the end of the day that's the bottom line."

Hockey Canada all along believed Walman was Canadian. Now in his second season at Providence College in Rhode Island, he would have had to play two full seasons to qualify as an American.

Walman is quite the catch, too, as the NCAA's leading scorer among defencemen with 10 goals and eight assists in 12 games. He could be part of a blue line that may feature returnee Joe Hicketts and NHL first-round picks Haydn Fleury

“

All we care about is that you can come here and help us win, and that's the bottom line.

Scott Salmond, Hockey Canada vice-president of hockey operations and national teams

and Travis Sanheim.

Making it will be a challenge at a competitive camp, which is perhaps why Walman opted to go to the U.S. summer camp in Lake Placid, N.Y.

"Jake had to make a decision based on the information he had and probably what he thought,



Jake Walman cuts the net after the Providence Friars won the NCAA Division I men's championship in April. MADDIE MEYER/GETTY IMAGES

as a young player, was going to give him the best opportunity to play," Salmond said.

Hockey Canada is giving him that opportunity. Walman is one of 11 defencemen invited to the mid-December camp, along with Hicketts, Fleury, Sanheim, 2014 first-rounder

Roland McKeown, 2015-first-rounders Thomas Chabot and Noah Juulsen, potential 2016 top pick Jacob Chychrun, Toronto Maple Leafs second-rounder Travis Dermott, fellow St. Louis Blues prospect Vince Dunn and the only other U.S. college player at camp, Boston University's

Brandon Hickey.

"He deserves to be here as one of the best 11 defencemen in the country, and there is no hard feelings," Hockey Canada director of player personnel Ryan Jankowski said. "We want the best players."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Tuna Casserole



PHOTO: MAMA VINNYE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Can #throwbackthursday apply to a recipe? If so, this would be ours. It's a feel-good, not quite straight out of the '50s dinner you're going to love.

Ready in
Prep time: 25 minutes
Serves 6

- Ingredients**
- 500g package of whole wheat penne or macaroni
 - 1 Tbsp olive oil
 - 3 cups cremini mushrooms, thinly sliced
 - 1 leek, cleaned well and thinly sliced
 - 3 Tbsp flour
 - 2 cups milk
 - 1 Tbsp dijon mustard
 - 1 cup frozen peas
 - 1 Tbsp dried thyme

- 3 cans good quality tuna, drained and rinsed
- 1 1/2 cups Gruyere, grated

Directions

1. Cook pasta 2 minutes less than package instructions and drain.
2. In a large pan with olive oil, sauté mushroom and leeks until they begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Sprinkle flour over mushrooms and leeks, stir and cook for 1 minute. Whisk in milk and allow to thicken, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in mustard and season with salt and pepper after tasting. Add the tuna, frozen peas and thyme.
3. Add cooked pasta to the tuna mixture, stir and turn off heat. Pour the mixture into a casserole. Sprinkle cheese over top and pop into the oven and broil for 3 to 5 minutes or until the cheese bubbles and turns brown.

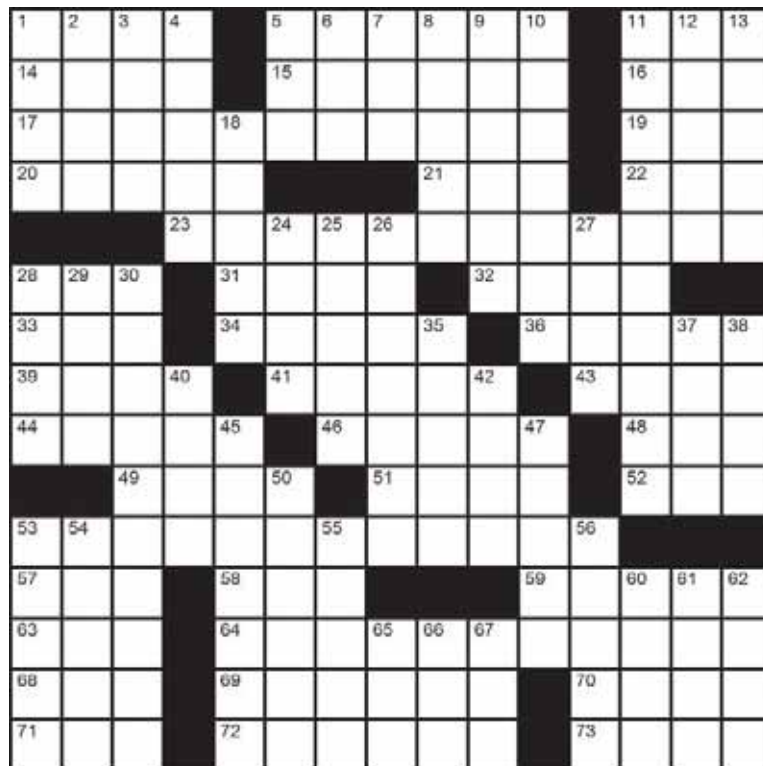
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ACROSS

1. Belgium lang.
5. Finally: 2 wds.
11. _-Fi
14. Early helicopter
15. Housing market
16. Bon _ (High society)
17. Person consulted when there's a problem at check-out: 2 wds.
19. Year: Spanish
20. Computers: _ Pentium Inside
21. Canada's currency, curtly
22. Stop-_-
23. Months and Meals... Canadian tradition launched in 1974 - the 2016 one is now out: 2 wds.
28. Month divs.
31. Window _
32. Jai _
33. ' _ _ Canadian' (Molson beer commercial slogan)
34. Hagar's humorous hound
36. "Wonder Woman" star Ms. Carter
39. Jimmy _ (Shoe designer)
41. Outlandish outfit: 2 wds.
43. Cheese: Canadian _ Cheddar
44. Hillock
46. Places
48. "Fact" finisher
49. Vancouver Canucks
51. Princess _ day (Bride's dream)
52. "Hiss!"
53. "A New Rock and Roll" is a 1974 song



by what Canadian band?: 2 wds.
57. Saint John Airport code
58. "Legend" suffix
59. Doesn't discard
63. Irish actor Stephen
64. 1985 movie for which David Foster

co-wrote John Parr's 'Man in Motion' theme song: 3 wds.
68. Nose: French
69. Mulls over info before divulging it: 2 wds.
70. Stallion's speed
71. Wood-shaper's tool, variantly

72. Results
73. Archery woods

DOWN

1. E-J link
2. Hold on property
3. 'E' in QED
4. Web-accessing device

5. _ Vos Prec (T.S. Eliot poetry volume)
6. Writer Mr. Lawrence, et al.
7. "Well, _-di-dah!"
8. Actress Ms. Valli
9. Fashion's Ms. McCartney
10. Royal _ Museum (Dinosaur remains at-

traction in Alberta)
11. Audience appreciations for outstanding performances, fun-style: 2 wds.
12. Miami Sound Machine tune
13. Koh-_- Diamond
18. Paper fasteners
24. k.d.'s last name
25. Pew prayer's supports
26. Endorse
27. Quebec water brand
28. Candle's cord
29. Comic actress Madeline
30. Music style for Alfie Zappacosta: 2 wds.
35. Extra education instructor
37. Agnus _ (Mass prayers)
38. Finds the sum
40. Margarine
42. South American country
45. Celebrity chef Emeril
47. Belonging to Regina's prov.
50. Mr. Short
53. Ms. Loy
54. Plant _ _ and watch it grow
55. Putin's pshaws
56. Brawny
60. Ireland
61. Boat part
62. Hardens
65. Baton Rouge sch.
66. Five Guys Named _ (Stage musical)
67. Clip- _ (Non-pierced earrings)

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Aries March 21 - April 20
You feel you should be doing more, you feel you should be pushing yourself harder — and you're right. You have been lazy of late and you need to make up for wasted chances.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Don't take what others say too seriously because among all the good advice there is sure to be something designed to trip you up. Not everyone you work with is on your side.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Everyone wants something from you. Everyone wants you to give. Maybe you need to remind them that you have a life of your own and don't have to be at their beck and call every minute of the day. Be brutal.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
There may be many things you want to change in your life but this isn't the right time. Consolidate what you have got rather than go out and get something more.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You may be reluctant to admit that you got it wrong and said things that were untrue but if you want to salvage a friendship that is what you must do. Apologize with good grace.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Put petty disputes behind you and give others the benefit of the doubt. Some things are worth getting worked up about but the planets warn that what you are getting emotional over is not worth it.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If life seems a bit too tame it could be because you are not setting targets that test your abilities. It's fun to drift along but already you are getting bored with the easy life.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You need to decide what it is you want most out of life and focus all your energies in that single direction. Forget about what might have been because it is what still can be that matters.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There may be important things you could be doing but you must ignore them all and have a good time. Who is going to stop you? Who is going to complain? If it feels good then do it.

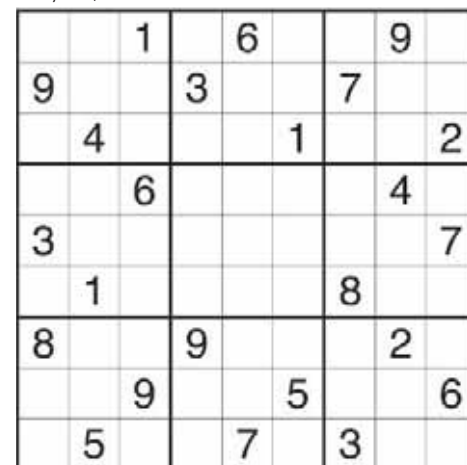
Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do something that makes you feel alive. It does not matter if it is unproductive — you don't have to be on the make every minute of every day. No one can accuse you of not working hard, so by all means play hard for a while.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You've got a lot of routine chores to do and you are not looking forward to them, but if you knuckle down and get serious you may be surprised by how quickly you get them done.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
If you take on too much today both your body and your mind will regret it. Focus only on those things that have to be done — the rest can wait.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

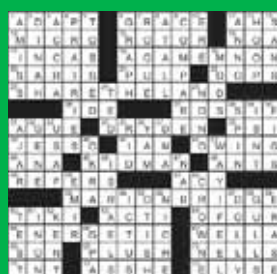


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